MONDAY
January 27, 2025

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Sinner outclasses Zverev, retains title

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Republic Day parade taps into heritage, diversity, military might

President Droupadi Murmu leads the celebrations, with Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto as special guest; tableaux celebrating 150 years of tribal activist Birsa Munda and 75 years of the enactment of Constitution were the key highlights

Samridhi Tewari
Satvika Mahajan
NEW DELHI

Stately celebrations: President Droupadi Murmu arrives for the Republic Day parade with Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto on Kartavya Path in New Delhi on Sunday; an aerial view of the marching contingents and Army tanks. ANI & PIB/PTI

India showcased its military might and cultural diversity with a parade keeping special focus on the 75 years of the enactment of the Constitution and *Jan Bhagidari* (people's participation), at the Republic Day celebration here on a cold winter morning that continued into a bright sunny afternoon on Sunday.

President Droupadi Murmu led the celebrations, with Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto as the special guest.

The theme for this year was "*Swarnim Bharat: Virasat aur Vikas*" (Golden India: heritage and development).

The parade began at 10.30 a.m., with Prime Minister Narendra Modi visiting the National War Memorial to pay tributes to the fallen heroes.

The President and her Indonesian counterpart were escorted by the President's Bodyguard, the senior-most Regiment of the Army. While the invitees stood still, the National Flag was unfurled, followed by the playing of the National Anthem with a thunderous 21-gun salute using 105-mm light field guns, an indigenous weapon system. The Indonesian Army graced the event with a music band.

Tableaux celebrating 150 years of tribal activist Birsa Munda and 75 years of the Constitution spotlighting the "Father of the Indian Constitution", Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, were the key highlights.

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'REPUBLICAN JOURNEY'
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'Blast' in Guwahati: ULFA(I) says it's just a warning

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Police seize bag with IED, say they have launched a search for the miscreants behind the incident

People across eight north-eastern States defied a boycott call by some extremist groups, including the United Liberation Front of Asom (Independent), to celebrate the country's 76th Republic Day on Sunday.

An aberration in the festival-like atmosphere was a "bomb blast" the ULFA(I) claimed to have detonated on a truck parking lot in the Beharbari area on the outskirts of Guwahati in the morning.

Another bag, suspected to contain an improvised explosive device, was found at the Inter-State Bus Terminus nearby.

The police downplayed the outlawed outfit's claim. "It was a loud sound, not an explosion. We have launched an operation to catch the miscreants involved," Guwahati's Commissioner of Police, Partha Sarathi Mahanta, said.

Earlier, the Paresh Baruah-led ULFA(I) claimed it carried out blasts in Guwahati and other parts of Assam "not to harm anyone but send a message to the people to not participate in occupational India's Independence Day and Republic Day programmes in the future".

In an email, a spokesperson of the group said the "blast" was also to remind New Delhi of what it was capable of doing on a larger scale.

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NEARBY

BMTC begins full bus wrap advertisements

BENGALURU
The BMTC has started to fully wrap its 3,000 non-AC buses with advertisements. This marks a departure from the previous practice of allowing advertisements only on the rear side of buses. » PAGE 3

Beauty of Harangi backwaters threatened

KUSHALNAGAR
The scenic Harangi backwaters, a favourite picnic spot in Karnataka's Kodagu district, is now under threat from increasing pollution and mismanagement. » PAGE 4

EDUCATIONPLUS » PAGE J2

Draft Bill to rein in microfinance firms to be discussed at next Cabinet meet

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Amidst large-scale complaints about harassment by micro finance companies in Karnataka, the State Cabinet will discuss a draft Bill to regulate the activities of microfinance companies at its next meeting on January 30, even as Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said that stern action will be taken on complaints filed by victims of harassment.

Siddaramaiah FILE PHOTO

While the Chief Minister said in Bengaluru that a helpline would be set up in the offices of deputy commissioners to monitor and help victims to file complaints, his Cabinet colleagues also weighed in on the issue. "Stern action will be initiated against microfinance firms if complaints are filed against them by the victims," Mr. Siddaramaiah said.

It may be noted that on Saturday, the State government decided to promulgate an Ordinance titled Karnataka Microfinance Institutions (Regulation of Money Lending) Bill after a meeting with representatives from microfinance companies. The Chief Minister had also questioned the dubious methods of lending and recovery process at a meeting with them.

Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H.K. Patil indicated that draft Bill would be ready over the next four days, and it would come for discussion at the next Cabinet meeting.

"We have circulated the draft among experienced police officers seeking their feedback. They should not later complain about powers not being given to act. We will also hold discussions with Home Minister (G. Parameshwara), Revenue Minister (Krishna Byre Gowda), and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar before it is given to the Chief Minister," Mr. Patil told presspersons at Gadag. "The problem is that the companies have outsourced collection work to rowdy sheeters," he said.

His statements come in the light of harassment being meted out to those who have availed themselves of loans from microfinance companies, across the State. Cases of suicide have also been reported, while in some cases people have moved out of their villages owing to harassment by recovery agents.

While Public Works Minister Satish Jarkiholi told reporters in Belagavi that the matter should be handed over to the CID, Urban Development Minister Byrathi Suresh threatened that criminal cases would be filed against those trying to recover money forcibly from women and the poor.

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» PAGE 2

Since its inauguration, Yelahanka gas plant has generated 454 MU of power

Jahnavi T.R.
BENGALURU

Karnataka's first combined cycle gas plant in Yelahanka, which was inaugurated in September, has generated a total of 454 Million Units (MU) since. The plant, which has a generation capacity of 370 megawatts (MW) is expected to help in catering to increased electricity demand in summer.

"The plant has generated a good amount of electricity so far and it has been integrated with the power grid. From the grid, this power will be used to manage the peak demands of summer especially in Bengaluru city," said an official from Karnataka Power Corporation Limited (KPCL).

Karnataka's first combined cycle gas plant in Yelahanka came up in September 2024. FILE PHOTO

Gearing up for summer

Karnataka faced an unprecedented electricity demand in 2023-24 owing to drought. The Energy Department has this time prepared months in advance to handle the demand. As on January 25, the peak demand of the State was 16,804 MW.

Although the plant has not generated power over the last few weeks owing to maintenance, it is likely to restart the generation this week, say sources in KPCL.

However, residents of housing complexes nearby continue to object to it, alleging air and noise pollution. "At night, vapour emerges in thick clouds of smoke. It also has a bad odour. With so many families living nearby, it has caused many health issues like throat irritation, cold and cough," alleged Namitha, a resident of an apartment complex near the plant.

A KPCL official said, "According to Supreme Court orders, KSPCB has been monitoring the pollution levels at the plant. We are well within the permissible limits on all parameters."

Bidadi WTE plant

Another first project of its kind, the waste-to-energy (WTE) plant in Bidadi has also been generating 11.5 MW every day since the third week of December, which is also being added to the grid.

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No extra allocation for MGNREGS; wages delayed

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), the Union government's flagship scheme to provide guaranteed employment of 100 days for rural workers, has not received an additional budgetary allocation in 2024-25 despite a deficit, resulting in delay in disbursal of wages to workers.

Uncertain times: MGNREGS workers at a reconstruction site on the outskirts of Amritsar. FILE PHOTO

Sources said the Rural Development Ministry was short of ₹4,315 crore for the wages for which a fund transfer order had been generated. Section 3 (3) of the MGNREG Act says "the disbursement of daily wages shall be made on a weekly basis or in any case not later than a fortnight after the date on which such work was done".

The Centre has a liability of ₹5,715 crore against its share for material components. The Centre bears 60% of the cost of the materials and the remaining 40% is given by the States.

When there is a continued delay in material component payout, the local vendors who supply the raw material become reluctant to supply, breaking the work cycle.

In February 2024, in the last Budget of the Narendra Modi government's second term, ₹86,000 crore was allotted for the scheme. Despite the deficit and repeated requests, no additional funds were given.

Past trend

This is breaking from the past trend of allocating additional funds. To criticism on low allocation for the programme, the Centre has maintained that it is a demand-driven scheme and additional allocation is made whenever needed. For example, in 2020-21, when the pandemic drove reverse migration to the villages and the demand for work soared, the Centre revised the original allocation of ₹61,500 crore to ₹1,11,500 crores, one of the highest jumps.

Academics and activists closely monitoring the programme say the low budgetary allocation leads to artificial suppression of demand. This problem was also flagged by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Rural Development in its report tabled in February 2024.

"The pruning of funds at Budget Estimate stage itself does have a cascading effect on various important aspects such as timely release of wages, release of material share etc. which have a telling impact on the progress of the Scheme. The Committee feels that for smooth implementation of MGNREGA at ground level, shortage of funds is a big obstacle," the panel noted in its report.

Trump moots 'clean-out' of Gaza, lifts curbs on bomb

Associated Press
ABOARD AIR FORCE ONE

U.S. President Donald Trump said he would like to see Jordan, Egypt and other Arab nations increase the number of Palestinian refugees they are accepting from the Gaza Strip, potentially moving out enough of the population to "just clean out" the war-torn area to create a virtual clean slate.

Happy homecoming: A Palestinian who spent 19 years in Israeli jail, greeting his family in West Bank. AFP

During a 20-minute question-and-answer session on Saturday with presspersons aboard Air Force One, Mr. Trump also said he has ended his predecessor's hold on sending 2,000-pound bombs to Israel. That lifts a pressure point meant to reduce civilian casualties during Israel's war with Hamas in Gaza, which is now halted by a tenuous ceasefire.

"We released them today," Mr. Trump said of the bombs. "They have been waiting for them for a long time."

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Tilak — the T20 behemoth is a fusion of power and finesse

Having followed big names from Hyderabad, the southpaw is cut from a different cloth and the win in Chennai is proof that there's more to the batter than just the explosive game; the MI batter will have challenges as the team heads towards the next T20 WC where he would be one among the seniors

R. RAGU

R. Kaushik

Tilak Varma has smashed 57 fours and 41 sixes in his fledgling Twenty20 International career, which is 22 matches young. Of them all, the boundary that would have given him the greatest satisfaction was a punched off-drive that scurried past mid-off and thudded into the boundary boards beyond long-off.

As he cleared his front leg and drove Jamie Overton wide of the straight field at Chepauk on Saturday, Tilak started to run, his eyes unwaveringly on the ball. Once it had gotten past the mid-off fielder, there was no doubt about its final destination. But it wasn't until the ball had hurtled past the rope that Tilak's gentle run manifested itself into a triumphant, gravity-defying leap. After all, it was the winning boundary, the shot that took India past England's 165 for nine, the stroke that helped complete a terrific victory, fashioned as well as taken to its logical denouement by the 22-year-old from Hyderabad.

Tilak has now gone four T20I innings without being dismissed. In this period, he brought up his first T20I century (in Centurion last November), then became only the second Indian after Sanju Samson to register hundreds in successive T20Is. His 41-ball century in Johannesburg, which came during a stunning 210-run stand with Samson, is the third fastest by an Indian in the 20-over format. Since falling for a run-a-ball 20 in the second of four matches against South Africa in Gqeberha, Tilak has stacked up 318 runs in 174 deliveries, 24 fours and 22 sixes, without getting out. If those aren't stunning numbers, then very few are.

Strong basics

Very much the new-age Indian batter - flowing locks, the ubiquitous beard, studded ear - Tilak is the perfect example of fusing the conventional with the modern. His basics are strong, without which one can't succeed at any level in any format, and don't let anyone say otherwise. He has all the shots in the book and is unafraid to play them, though any innings of substance that emanates from his flowing willow is dominated more by the orthodox than the innovative and the cheeky.

A product of tennis-ball cricket, like many in the country, who was spotted by an eagle-eyed coach (Salam Bayash) when just 11, Tilak's has been a steady and gradual journey that highlights the robust talent-spotting and age-group mechanism that is one of the less celebrated facets of Indian cricket. There was a time when apart from talent, one needed oodles of good fortune - being in the right place at the right time and being spotted and recognised by those who matter when it mattered - to break through. Organised matches were few and far between, it was easy for even the gifted to slip through the cracks if they didn't measure up to scratch in 'selection' matches simply because the volume of cricket was limited and the supply chain abundant.

Today, there is greater structure to age-group action even in remote corners, facilities abound in tier-two and tier-three cities and cricket is no longer restricted to only the traditional powerhouses. Not that Tilak comes from a cricketing outpost.

Hyderabad has given India some of the most stylish batters, starting from the late M.L. Jaisimha and peaking with V.V.S. Laxman. Tilak isn't cut from the same cloth in the sense that he isn't quite the wristy magician that Laxman, and Mohammad Azharuddin before him, were. But he has the class and elegance of a left-hander, tall and rangy, a crisp driver along the carpet but also a wonderful clearer of the boundaries both down the ground and behind square on the leg-side.

From his tennis-ball days to making it to the India Under-19 team after breaking into the Hyderabad senior side when only 16 and then grabbing the attention of Indian Premier League franchises, appears a seamless graduation, but it wasn't without the fair share of challenges that any young sportsperson anywhere in the world has to grapple with. For every individual who cracks the code, there are thousands who don't, and oftentimes for no fault of theirs, never mind the vibrant structures in place. Tilak was determined not to fritter his talent away, fusing ambition with unwavering work ethics and being rewarded with a Mumbai Indians cap in the most visible Indian domestic tournament with an international flavour.

At the mega auction before 2022, Tilak went to Mumbai Indians for ₹1.70 crores, showcasing how highly the ultra-efficient talent scouts that served the multiple-times champions rated the then-teenager. MI have given India some of the most celebrated superstars, not least the T20 World Cup-winning duo of Jasprit Bumrah and Hardik Pandya. But unlike these two who burst through from relative anonymity,Tilak already had a reasonable volume of work and therefore was less of a punt than his two illustrious seniors in the franchise and in the Indian team.

It didn't take Tilak long to justify the faith reposed in him. Understandably, he was nervous stepping into a dressing-room that was full of massive names, none more than Rohit Sharma, who had just recently taken over as the country's all-format captain. Rohit is a huge hit with his colleagues for how effortlessly he makes them feel welcome; during his first meeting with Tilak, the current Test and ODI captain embraced the young man in a warm hug, stressed the lack of a senior-junior nomenclature divide and immediately put him at ease. Tilak's nerves evaporated instantaneously. He was now free to focus on his game, on expressing himself, on showcasing his undisputed skills on a larger platform.

Daunting stage

The IPL can be a daunting stage, with the pressure to perform in front of packed stadiums game after game immense and intense. Tilak took to that pressure-cooker cauldron with ridiculous ease. He played all 14 of his franchise's matches in his debut season, scoring 397 runs at an average of 36.09 and a strike-rate of 131.02. That same year, he broke into the India-A team and travelled to Bangladesh on a shadow tour just ahead of the senior team's visit to that country but suffered a terrible setback when an auto-immune issue forced him to return home.

It took a while for Tilak to recover physically from that ailment, but by the time of the IPL, he was back at peak fitness. For a sportsperson, the second season is a very important period. There is a certain novelty factor when one first arrives on the scene which enables one to flourish but especially after a successful first season, one becomes a marked person. Tilak put to bed any fears of second-season blues by producing 343 runs in 2023 at a better average (42.88) and strike-rate (164.11) than 12 months previously. This was the real deal, not a flash in the pan.

Reward was swift in coming in the form of a call-up to the T20I side on the tour of the West Indies in July-August 2023. Three months shy of his 21st birthday, the Hyderabadi announced himself in international cricket with 39 off 22 on debut in Tarouba, backing it up with 51 and 49 not out in the next two outings in Providence. This was no IPL hero alone, not just a franchise tiger but someone to whom the highest stage held no fears. Tilak Varma was here to stay.

Sport has a way of levelling things up, so a slump of sorts after that terrific initiation was inevitable. Four of his next five innings produced single-digit scores, including a sequence of 0, 1 and 2, but an unbeaten 55 against Bangladesh in Asian Games in Hangzhou reignited the flame and there has been no looking back since. True, Tilak only got to play when the big boys weren't available and had to gracefully - did he have a choice? - make way when they returned ahead of the T20 World Cup in the Americas last June. But India are now clearly in the rebuilding phase following the T20I retirements of Rohit and Virat Kohli, and it won't be any surprise if Tilak's is the second name on the team list at the time of selection, behind skipper Suryakumar Yadav.

Special thanksgiving

In South Africa in November, Tilak approached Suryakumar, his Mumbai Indians teammate, asking if he could assume the No. 3 position that Suryakumar has made his own in the last few years. The older man obliged, and the younger one expressed thanksgiving with back-to-back centuries. Tilak won't always bat at No. 3 because India have embarked on a largely uncompromising approach of always having a left-right combination in the middle, which has been made possible by the presence of four right-handers and as many left-handers in the top eight. But in his brief forays at one-drop, he has shown both the tactical nous and the temperamental maturity to bat according to the situation and the need of the hour.

The next T20 World Cup, at home, is a little over 12 months away and unless things go drastically south, Tilak will be among those entrusted with the responsibility of ensuring a successful title defence. By then, he will be one of the leaders with enough experience under his belt to contribute more than just sizzling runs.

In the top four, he is a worthy successor to several of the stalwarts who have driven India's T20 revolution and is in the unique position of leaving behind a lasting legacy, but Tilak won't be satisfied with that alone. Regarded as a T20I behemoth, he averages 50.16 in 18 first-class games and will insist that his red-ball ambitions are very much alive and kicking.

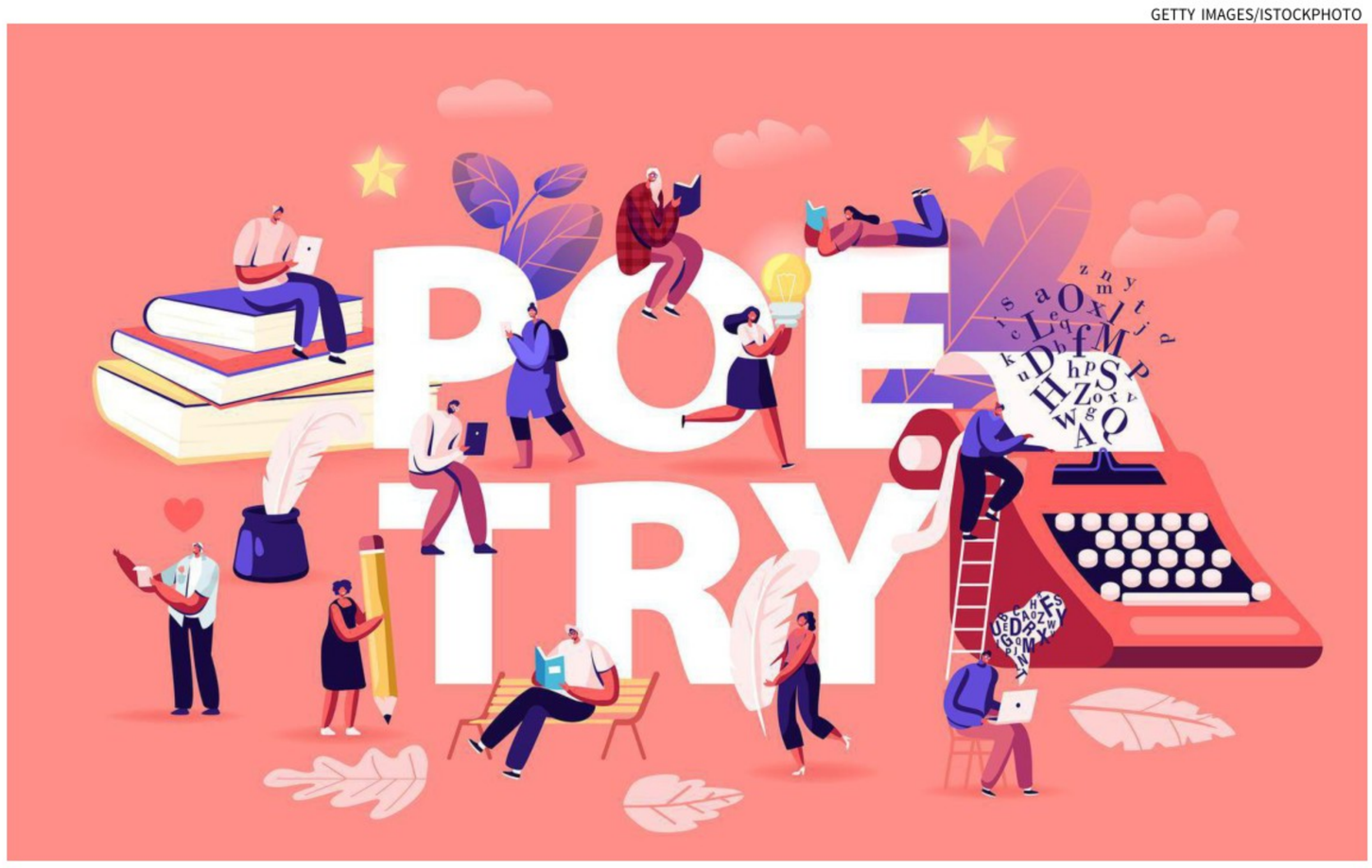
Tilak hasn't yet seriously been discussed as a Test prospect, for no fault of his. It won't be long before that eventuates if he continues to light up the cricketing landscape like he did Chepauk on Saturday night.

THE GIST

- A product of tennis-ball cricket, like many in the country, Tilak was spotted by an eagle-eyed coach (Bayash) when he was just 11
- Tilak had a reasonable volume of work and therefore was less of a punt than Bumrah and Hardik at Mumbai Indians
- The next T20 World Cup, at home, is a little over 12 months away and unless things go drastically south, Tilak will be among those entrusted with the responsibility of ensuring a successful title defence

EDUCATIONPLUS

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO



Rhyme and reason

How do we introduce poetry to students and tell them what it is?

Nimesh Ved

A few weeks ago, we had organised a session on poetry for teachers. The idea was to delve deeper into poetry and discuss how best we could get children to bond better with it. The session commenced with a song and I began by asking colleagues to recall one or more film songs which, in their understanding, were laden with metaphors.

The silence that followed made me wonder where I had erred. I then wrote on the board a few lines from a song to discuss the metaphors it contained. However, the participants found it difficult to connect the metaphors with the song. Most people like and listen to film songs but rarely associate them with metaphors or with any other figures of speech. Someone said that an exercise like this could suck the joy of out of songs. This left me wondering if we connect with metaphors only when we wear our teaching hats. Do we not connect them with our lives?

What is poetry?

Going forward, one of the questions that came up was how do we introduce poetry to students and tell them what it is. The answers ranged from "not prose", "rhyming", and so on but no one suggested that each student could interpret a poem differently without being incorrect. As Samuel Taylor Coleridge once remarked, poetry is "the best words in the best order". As our discussion progressed, my colleagues' struggle was palpable, despite having invested significant time in reading, reciting and listening to poetry.

Unfortunately, the "conventional teacher" runs the risk of reducing a William Wordsworth classic to a list of difficult words with their meanings or explain the beauty of a Robert Frost as THE interpretation of the poem. In other words, we wean children away from poetry. On the other hand, I recall my English teacher who immersed us in Shelley's *To A Skylark*. I am not sure of the exact impact it had on me or my love for poetry but, even more than two decades later, I can still recall her infectious passion and the skylark she drew on the board. Eugenio Montale famously said, "I wait for poetry to visit me." Poetry surely visited our class that week.

So, what can we do besides, of course, waiting for poetry to visit us?

What we can do

We can begin with the basics. We can figure out what poetry means to us. Or, what is a poem? Paul Celan's response to the later is epic, "A poem, as a manifestation of language and thus essentially dialogue, can be a message in a bottle, sent out in the – not always greatly hopeful – belief that somewhere and sometime it could wash up on land, on heartland perhaps. Poems in this sense, too, are under way: they are making toward something".

And possibly move on to how, if at all, can one teach poetry? Siddhartha Menon, a teacher and poet, has an eloquent take in his *Building A Cathedral: An approach to teaching poetry*. "I ask myself what I might be doing when I teach poetry. A simple, and perhaps the most honest, answer is that I am pleasing myself and thereby, I like to think, my students". We could also delve deeper by bringing in factors like age and comfort with the language. Then, of course, we need to try out actions. There are neither secret formulae nor short-cuts, and we will have to work our way.

In the recent months, in school we have focussed on the text. The poem. We have read poems – alone, in silence, together, aloud, in tandem with online videos online and re-read them. We have begun many days with poems as well. We have tried to encompass a wide range from the classics to the contemporary and from the religious to the revolutionary. In the process, not only have we built up a decent collection of books on poems but have also made inroads into our conversations. Some of us have become friends with poetry and a couple have also fallen in love with it. We understand this is a beginning and sooner than later the students will join us.

The writer teaches English and is associated with a school in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.

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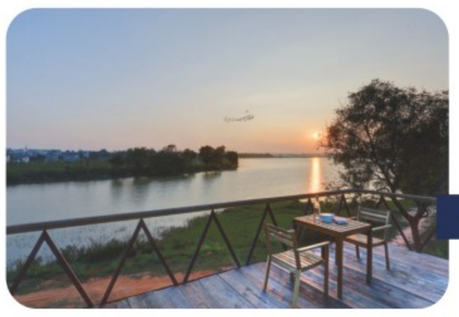

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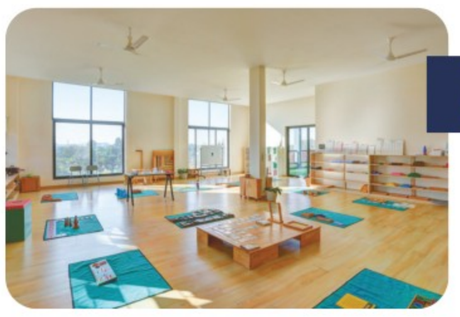

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BBMP to distribute electric street vending vehicles at 90% subsidy

Street vendor unions welcome scheme, but say pushcarts should not be an alternative to assigning enough vending zones

K.V. Aditya Bharadwaj
BENGALURU

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has set aside ₹40 crore to distribute e-vehicles custom designed for street vending at a subsidy of 90%. On January 4, the civic body called for applications for the same.

The BBMP's Social Welfare Department is now finalising five designs of the e-vehicles for various trades on the street. While one vehicle accommodates a stove, gas cylinder, and a kitchen and is meant to sell food, another has a display area to sell clothes, shoes, and the like. Three more such custom designs are being finalised.

"The civic body will give a subsidy of 90% of the vehicle cost, or ₹1.5 lakh, whichever is higher, to street vendors. No vehicle will be given for free. Street vendors will have to pay at least 10% of the cost of the vehicle. The base price of the electric vehicle has been fixed at ₹1.45 lakh. The final price will be decided based on the tender. We will also distribute a smaller number of custom-made manual pushcarts with a base price of ₹20,000," said Suralkar Vikas Kishor, Special Commissioner (Health and Social Welfare), BBMP.

Street vendors selling vegetables in Bengaluru. FILE PHOTO

₹40 crore alloted

The civic body hasn't decided on the number of e-vehicles to be distributed.

"We have set aside a total of ₹40 crore for the project. We will distribute as many customised EVs as possible in that fund. This is a new scheme from the Welfare Department, which already distributes wheelchairs and two-wheelers for disabled persons, and tailoring machines for women. The distribution of these customised EV pushcarts will henceforth be an annual programme," a senior official said.

Practical problems

Street vendors' unions have welcomed the scheme, but with caveats.

S. Babu, president, Karnataka Pragatipara Beedi Badi Vyaparigala Sangha, welcomed the scheme but added that the distribution of EV pushcarts should not be a reason for not identifying enough vending zones in Bengaluru. "There is a big lobby to remove street vendors from the streets. EV pushcarts should not be seen as an alternative to assigning vending zones, identifying street vendors, giving them ID cards, vending certificates and assigning them particular spots," he said, adding there were other practical problems like charging infrastructure and place for parking.

> The ongoing survey of street vendors hasn't enrolled even half of the vendors in the city.
>
> **LEKHA ADAVI**
> activist, Karnataka Pragatipara Beedi Badi Vyaparigala Sangha

"The ongoing survey of street vendors hasn't enrolled even half of the vendors in the city. They have deliberately imposed several restrictions, like a local ration card, to restrict the number of identified street vendors, which will obviously limit identified vending zones in the city. Now, EV push carts cannot be another reason for dwindling vending zones," Lekha Adavi, an activist from the Sangha.

The civic officials said that while those enrolled as street vendors in the survey by the civic body will get priority, it is not mandatory. A similar yardstick has been employed for PM SVANidhi Scheme, which provides small loans to street vendors.

Harassment of vendors

"It is ironic that enrolment in the survey is not a prerequisite to access welfare benefits for street vendors, but only for assigning vending spots," Ms. Adavi said, adding that presently, civic officials harass many street vendors who sell food items on modified vehicles arguing that they come under the Motor Vehicle Act and do not have rights under The Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014. "Now, the BBMP is contradicting itself," she said.

Mr. Babu said that facilities street vendors need access to include clean toilets, drinking water, weighing scales, and the like. "The civic body should have discussions with the street vending community before deciding what we need," he said.

Russell Market revamp: Civic body to issue certificates to vendors

The vendors at Russell Market will be moved to nearby locations during the renovation work. FILE PHOTO

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) will be issuing vending certificates to about 475 vendors operating in the historic Russell Market at Shivajinagar ahead of the commencement of work to revamp the market.

The BBMP had recently floated the tender for preparation of a Detailed Project Report (DPR). This exercise aims to identify genuine traders, who have been conducting business in the market for years. Russell Market is popular for trading fruits, vegetables, flowers, fish, and mutton. As it is in a dilapidated condition, currently many traders operate from outside it. After issuing certificates, the vendors will be moved to a nearby location during the renovation work. According to a source in the BBMP, a multistoried building will be constructed with lifts, parking areas, cold storage, and other amenities.

Heritage aesthetics

Rizwan Arshad, Shivajinagar MLA, said the revamp of the market will be done at an estimated cost of ₹40 crore. The facelift will be given retaining the heritage aesthetics of the market. Mr. Arshad said the work will be carried out in a phased manner in the interest of businesses."We have a plaza near the market and traders can be shifted here. We will finalise the location after issuing certificates," he said.

2012 fire

Mohammad Idris Choudhary, General Secretary, Russell Market Traders' Association, said the condition of the market started to deteriorate after the fire in 2012. The BBMP has been planning renovation for a very long time but it did not happen due to multiple issues.

"At present, the plight of the market is at its worst and modernisation is the need of the hour. Of 475 vendors, only 150 vendors operate from inside the market. The rest sit on the roadside as customers do not show interest to come inside," he said.

The decision to renovate the space was taken after deliberation among vendors, Mr. Arshad, and BBMP officials. The association has also agreed for a multi-storey building because it provides ample space for parking. This is a big boost for business.

The star is back

Actor Shivarajkumar being welcomed by fans after undergoing cancer treatment in the U.S., on his arrival in Bengaluru on Sunday. PTI

From Page One

MFIs: Draft Bill to come up for discussion at next Cabinet meet

"Notices will be issued to those troubling people who are already in financial distress," Mr. Byrathi Suresh told reporters in Kolar.

Cooperation Minister K.N. Rajanna said that the Bill would be moved during the next legislature session. "There is a need to curb the high interest rates. The new legislation is under discussion. The non-banking financial institutions secure licence from RBI and State government can only intervene when they harass people."

Labour Minister Santosh Lad said that issues such as blackmailing victims besides harassing them had come to light and that it was not acceptable.

The police had been asked to act against the harassers.

Yelahanka gas plant has generated 454 MU of power since September

However, the inauguration of the plant has faced multiple delays over the last year.

"It will take another three to four months for the plant to be handed over to the government and we cannot inaugurate it until then. While generation is going on, because of the recent accident, the private company is running more tests to ensure safety and that is taking some time," the KPCL official said.

On January 5, five workers were injured after hot ash was suddenly released in the WTE plant. A worker also succumbed to his injuries two days later.

The government, however, claimed no responsibility as the plant was not handed over.

Yet another innovative project, a second life battery-powered electric vehicle (EV) charging station, which is also awaiting inauguration, is expected to be commissioned in the coming week.

SWD encroachments: With only 290 removed in last eight months, BBMP's clearance drive slows down

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), which was swift in clearing encroachments on storm-water drains (SWDs) after the Congress government took charge, seems to have slowed down in taking action now.

Data from the city's civic body shows that between August 2023 and May 2024, 2,344 encroachments of SWDs were removed in 10 months. However, this drive suddenly slowed down from June 2024 and in eight months since, the civic body has cleared only 290 encroachments.

BBMP data shows that between August 2023 and May 2024, 2,344 encroachments of SWDs were removed in 10 months. FILE PHOTO

After the Congress government took charge in May 2023, Deputy Chief Minister D. K. Shivakumar took over as Bengaluru Development Minister and made clearing encroachments on SWDs a top priority, to mitigate floods. His plans to build roads in the buffer zones of SWDs also required encroachments to be cleared. Starting from August 2023, when a special encroachment clearance drive was launched, the civic body went hard against encroachers but lost momentum since June 2024, the data shows.

Of the total 4,316 encroachments identified, 2,634 have been cleared and 1,682 structures remain encroaching the drains in the city, data shows. A senior BBMP official attributed the slowing down of the drive to remove encroachments to court cases and procedural issues.

However, data shows that blame on court cases is not entirely true. There are court cases on only 196 structures identified as encroachments and 1,486 other encroachments do not have any court cases against them. The official argued that clearing of these 1,486 encroachments was in the process. "There is a long procedure before we can demolish and clear an encroachment, like an on-ground survey, serving notices, getting a response, responding to objections, etc. The procedure is in various stages right now for these properties and many of these cases may also end up in courts," he said.

BWSSB building illegally occupied by realtors

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) building has been illegally occupied by private persons at Ambedkar Nagar, a Dalit colony near Whitefield. Despite repeated complaints to the water utility, no action has been initiated.

For the past two years, two rooms built above the water tank have been occupied by private persons running a real estate business. The rooms were constructed by the BBMP in 2002 for the waterman to place pumps. The tank had been built on the ground floor. The rooms now fall under the ambit of the BWSSB. As the tank of around 2 lakh litres capacity is not being used, the private persons allegedly broke open the locks of the rooms for unauthorised occupation.

Sonnappa T., a government school teacher, raised complaints with BWSSB and BBMP, requesting eviction of the unauthorised users. He held that if the building was not being used for the purpose it was built for, it could be utilised by the BWSSB for other purposes. "Five people occupy rooms from morning to late evening daily. These men enjoy the backing of a real estate goon. They use these rooms for discussions, making calls, and other real estate works," he alleged.

Mr. Sonnappa said his complaints to the BWSSB had no effect as they continue to operate on the premises. "As the building was built by the BBMP, I have even informed local BBMP authorities to prod the BWSSB to take action. But nothing has worked. The BWSSB should evict these men and clear the rooms," he said.

Response from BWSSB

A BWSSB official said he received a complaint about the problem, but when he visited the place, the rooms were locked. "I will make multiple visits and ensure that action is taken. I have informed my superiors," he said.

Start-ups incubated at NSRCEL making strides in disability space

Jahnavi T.R.
BENGALURU

From smart spectacles which help the visually-challenged to the use of AI to help the deaf communicate better, some start-ups incubated at the NSRCEL of Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIMB) have made major strides in the inclusivity space.

Sunbots Innovation LLP has come out with smart glass (spectacles) called SMARTON, which has a camera on the right side that connects to the phone. The device uses AI to transform visuals into audio which can be accessed by the user. "It identifies in real time the object and where it is with respect to the user's position, and helps in mobility and a real-time understanding of what is happening. It also helps read documents and currency. Another feature describes what is happening in the surroundings. It also makes STEM content accessible via interactive learning," said Suketh Amil, co-founder of Sunbots Innovations LLP.

While the company is based in Ahmedabad, it was incubated in NSRCEL for six months between 2022 and 2023. The glasses cost around ₹15,000 and over 7,000 people have used them so far. Mr. Amil said the product is mostly used by people in the age group of 14 to 32, especially for educational purposes. A total of 13 Indian languages have been integrated with the device so far.

SMARTON, the AI-enabled smart glasses launched by Sunbots Innovation LLP. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Similarly, Disability Inclusion: Deep Vision Tech, another start-up, incubated in NSRCEL in 2023, offers a solution called Let'sTalkSign. It is a sign language interpretation programme that conveys sign to text and text to sign language for the hearing impaired.

"Once we started working on the disability space, we learnt that communication is only one problem. Hence, we developed AI-enabled variants which help with education in sign language, digital accessibility, job opportunities, workplace inclusion, accessibility to public services, and customer services," said Jayasudan Munsamy, co-founder, Deep Vision Tech. It can be accessed by anyone with a basic smartphone. A communication app was launched by the company two weeks ago. The solution can also work on televisions and kiosks. The company has also come up with a toolkit which can be used as an add-on in Microsoft Office and Google Workspace applications.

Inclusive classrooms

While the common belief is that children with special needs must go to special schools, The Teacher's Collective has been working on making every classroom inclusive for the last seven years.

"People are usually expected to do something special for a child with a difficulty. But when you start looking at solutions, it is pretty much the same as what is required for everybody. We have gone beyond differentiated learning for special education to inclusion for all. In regular classes, teachers are teaching an average learner, but according to neuroscience, the idea of an average learner is a myth," said Sangitha Krishnamurthi, co-founder of The Teacher's Collective.

She added, "Our goal is to make teaching and lesson plans inclusive through designing for diversity. In both government and private schools, diversity and needs are universal. 85% of support happens in a regular classroom with teachers who understand the different needs of children." The collective works with government and private schools and trains teachers to understand these needs and make classrooms more inclusive with innovative teaching-learning methods that are data-driven and based on neuroscience.

Indian space programme breaks into 2025 in 'mission mode'

The PSLV-C60 mission laid the foundations for Chandrayaan-4 and the Bharatiya Antariksh Station. Forthcoming test flights will move India closer to human spaceflight, soon to receive a helping hand from a third launch pad at Sriharikota, continuing work on NGLV, and a change of guard at ISRO

INDIA IN SPACE

Pradeep Mohandas

Just as 2024 was the year India developed a vision for its space programme, 2025 is likely to have the programme in mission mode. The PSLV-C60 mission, underway as the year began, laid the foundations for Chandrayaan-4 and the Bharatiya Antariksh Station.

Forthcoming test flights will move India closer to human spaceflight, soon to receive a helping hand from a third launch pad approved for construction at Sriharikota, continuing work on the Next-Generation Launch Vehicle (NGLV), and a change of guard at ISRO.

ISRO launches the PSLV-C60 from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota on December 30, 2024. AFP

SpaDeX, a team effort

On December 30, 2024, the PSLV-C60 mission lifted off from the Satish Dhawan Space Center (SDSC) in Sriharikota. About 15 minutes after liftoff, the rocket delivered the Space Docking Experiment (SpaDeX) satellites at slightly different velocities into a 475-km circular orbit.

Then ISRO chairman S. Somanath said the nominal date for the docking attempt would be January 7, 2025. M. Sankaran, director of the UR Rao Satellite Centre (URSC), said this was to allow the satellites to power up their solar cells.

Indian private company Kepler Aerospace provided ground station-as-a-service support for the mission alongside ISRO. It was able to simultaneously command the two SpaDeX satellites and provided "comprehensive mission support in under a month."

Swiss space situational awareness company s2a systems also shared details of the distance between the two satellites on social media.

This separation reached far rendezvous conditions, i.e., 10-20 km, on January 2, 2025, and started moving closer on January 6. ISRO had originally planned a webcast for January 7 but rescheduled by two days before calling it off altogether.

On January 8, the organisation said when the inter-satellite distance was reduced from 500 m to 225 m, the drift between the satellites was greater than expected. So it re-increased the separation to 6-8 km on January 9 and started over.

On January 10, the satellites were put on 'hold' mode to maintain an inter-satellite distance of 1.5 km then moved closer together on January 11 and 'held' at 230 m. On January 12, the inter-satellite distance was reduced further to 105 m, subsequently to 15 m, and then to 3 m. At this point, ISRO decided to move the satellites apart once again so it could analyse data from the satellites' sensors before the next attempt.

According to s2a systems, the inter-satellite separation grew to 10.9 km on January 12, and from there the next docking attempt was launched. They came within 2.6 km of each other on January 13 and to 900 m on January 15.

Finally, on January 16, ISRO issued a statement saying the two satellites had successfully docked and stabilised themselves in orbit. ISRO thus made history by completing its first in-orbit rendezvous and docking. Later that day, both satellites were controlled together from one of them, a feat necessary for lunar and space-station docking.

ISRO said the next steps involved transferring power from one satellite to the other and, later, undocking.

POEM4, the orbital testbed

After the PSLV-C60 mission deployed the SpaDeX satellites, the rocket's fourth stage was moved to a 350-km circular orbit and had its fuel dumped (a process called passivation, done so that the fuel doesn't explode and create a debris field). In this form, it was ready for the PSLV Orbital Experimental Module (POEM4) phase of its mission, when the fourth stage was to orbit the earth like a satellite. It carried 24 payloads: 14 from ISRO and 10 from academia and private industry.

ISRO's Relocatable Robotic Manipulator-Technology Demonstrator tested its movement and relocation capability by moving from one part of POEM4 to another. The Debris Capture Robotic Arm Manipulator also moved its arm, but ISRO wasn't clear about whether it managed to capture the piece of debris tethered to the payload. The Compact Research Module for Orbital Plant Studies (CROPS) had cowpea seeds germinate in orbit and studied the leaves.

On December 31, 2024, Manastu Space's Vyom 2U payload fired its green propulsion system for 30 seconds, tilting the POEM4 stage by 24°. The system used the company's proprietary green fuel MS289. Manastu fired the system once again on January 13, this time having POEM4 perform a somersault with an angular velocity of 1.5° per second.

Similarly, Bellatrix Aerospace fired its RUDRA payload for 60 seconds to impart an angular velocity of 1.4° per second and turn POEM4 around by 80°.

N Space Tech's payload, SwetchaSAT-V0, established communications with its ground station. The payload, designed and built in-house, tested communications in the UHF to Ku bands.

The SJC Institute of Technology and the Upagraha Amateur Radio Club at URSC said they had successfully received data from BGS-ARPIT, their jointly-developed amateur radio messaging payload. Many amateur radio operators also shared images received from BGS-ARPIT on amateur radio mailing lists.

GalaxEye also announced the successful performance of its payload, GLX-SQ. The company said it had achieved all mission objectives, including using GLX-SQ to create a synthetic-aperture radar (SAR) image.

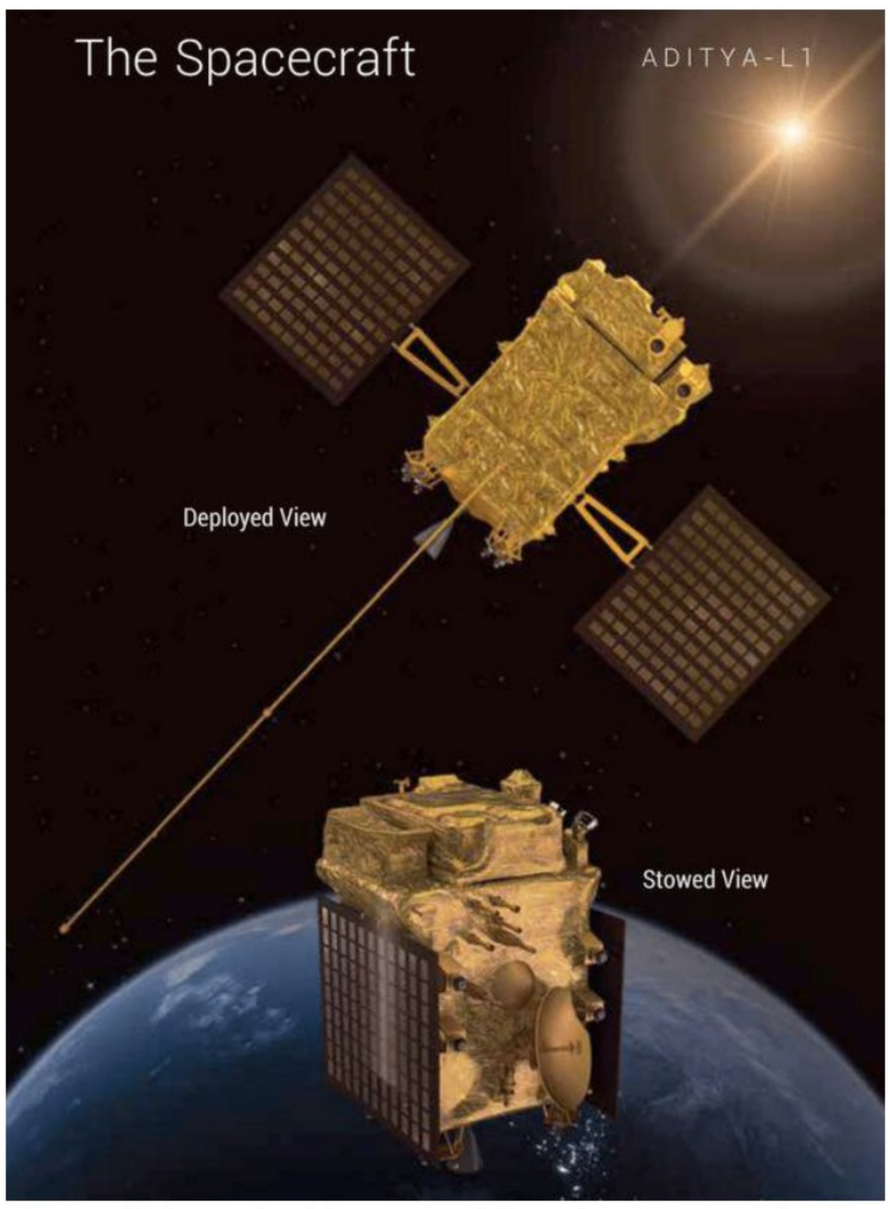
TakeMe2Space successfully conducted an in-orbit demonstration of its MOI-TD payload. An artificial intelligence unit, it uploaded "large models from the ground station, [executed] external code on the satellite, and [downlinked] the ... results." The company said it faced "a critical failure in the camera hardware," however.

Amity University said its Amity Plant Experimental Module in Space (APEMS) yielded positive results in its attempt to grow a plant in controlled conditions onboard POEM4.

Change of guard

While the SpaDeX and POEM4 missions were being executed in space, V. Narayanan took over from Somanath as ISRO chairman on January 14.

Narayanan was director of the Liquid Propulsion Systems Center, Thiruvananthapuram, and led work on the cryogenic and semi-cryogenic engines. He also chaired a committee to examine the failure of the Chandrayaan-2 moon-landing attempt.



Aditya-L1 is India's first space-based observatory to study the sun. This artist's impression shows the spacecraft in its deployed and stowed configurations. ISRO

On January 16 the two satellites docked and stabilised in orbit. Later both satellites were controlled together from one of them, a feat necessary for lunar and space-station docking. ISRO said next steps involved transferring power from one to the other and undocking

Aboard Transporter 12

Three Indian companies flew their payloads onboard SpaceX's Transporter 12 mission on January 15. They were part of another 131 payloads that the Falcon 9 rocket delivered to orbit.

First, **Pixxel Space**'s three Firefly hyperspectral satellites became the first private Indian satellite constellation; three more are to fly in the future. The company announced on social media that all three satellites had deployed their solar arrays and had started generating power, were stabilised, and had established two-way communication links.

Second, **Digantara** launched its Space Camera for Object Tracking for space situational awareness and to augment its ground capabilities. The company said the satellite was generating solar power and had stabilised. The satellite will now move to its commissioning phase to prepare for its mission: to precisely track objects in low-earth orbit.

Third, **XDLINX Labs'** Elevation 1 miniaturised communications satellite, built for US-based Almagest Space Corporation on its XDSATNS platform, was assembled, integrated, and tested by Ananth Technologies. The satellite has a small E-band satellite communications payload that sent a "hello from space" message to mark the start of its mission.

Space tech and science

The Union cabinet approved the construction of a third launch pad at SDSC at a cost of ₹3984.86 crore. It's expected to be built by 2029, to serve as a backup for the second launch pad as well as support for human spaceflight facilities and ISRO's NGLV.

ISRO also successfully tested its Vikas engine's ability to restart, i.e., stop firing, then start again, at its propulsion complex in Mahendragiri. The engine was fired for 60 seconds, shut off for 120 seconds, and fired again for seven seconds. ISRO has more tests planned ahead of certifying the engine's readiness to operate in this way in the atmosphere.The fourth-stage liquid engine of the PSLV already has restart capability in the vacuum of space.

Finally, on January 6, ISRO released the first tranche of data collected by its Aditya-L1 mission, exactly a year after the mission had started to study the sun and its effects on the inner solar system.

(Pradeep Mohandas is a technical writer and space enthusiast in Pune. pradeep.mohandas@gmail.com)

Remains of *Mbiresaurus raathi*, which was only about one metre tall, with a long tail, and weighed up to 30 kilograms, were found in Zimbabwe in 2019. AFP

Where did dinosaurs first evolve?

Reuters

Dinosaurs long dominated the earth's land ecosystems with multiple forms, including plant-eating giants like Argentinosaurus, meat-eating brutes like Tyrannosaurus, and weirdos like Therizinosaurus, with its Wolverine-like claws. But the origin of dinosaurs – precisely when and where they first appeared – remains a bit of a puzzle.

Researchers are now proposing a surprising location for the birthplace of dinosaurs, based on the locations of the currently oldest-known dinosaur fossils, the evolutionary relationships among these early forms, and the earth's geography during the Triassic Period. This locale spans the modern-day Sahara desert and Amazon rainforest regions, now separated by thousands of kilometres and an ocean thanks to a geological process called plate tectonics.

"When dinosaurs first appear in the fossil record, all the earth's continents were part of the giant supercontinent Pangaea. Dinosaurs emerged in the southern portion of this landmass, known as Gondwana," said Joel Heath, a palaeontology doctoral student at University College London and the Natural History Museum in London and lead author of the study, published on Thursday in the journal *Current Biology*.

"Our research suggests they likely originated in the low-latitude regions of Gondwana near the equator, an area that today includes northern South America and northern Africa," Heath added.

The earliest-known dinosaur fossils date to roughly 230 million years ago, including Eoraptor and Herrerasaurus

Research suggests dinosaurs likely originated in low-latitude regions of Gondwana near the equator, an area that today includes northern South America and northern Africa

from Argentina, Saturnalia from southern Brazil, and Mbiresaurus from Zimbabwe. While sharing certain traits defining them as dinosaurs, they had sufficient differences that suggest millions of years of dinosaur evolution had already occurred.

"While earlier research has focused on southern South America and southern Africa as the area of origin of the dinosaurs, based on where their fossils first appear, we suggest that significant gaps in the fossil record, particularly in regions that today include the Sahara desert and the Amazon rainforest, may hold the potential to reveal where the earliest dinosaurs were living," Heath said.

The researchers said dinosaurs probably emerged approximately 245-230 million years ago, when these equatorial regions were extremely hot and dry.

"It likely included deserts, savannah-like habitats, and possibly forested areas prone to seasonal wildfires. Previously, it was believed that dinosaurs were absent from these harsh environments," Heath said.

Fossils from this time and region are rare. This might be because the conditions were not ideal for preserving the remains of land animals or because the rocks containing these fossils haven't been discovered yet, Heath said.

The Amazon and the Sahara also are difficult for palaeontologists to explore due to the logistical challenges.

Dinosaurs evolved from more primitive reptiles after the earth's biggest mass-extinction event caused by extreme volcanism at the end of the Permian Period, about 252 million years ago.

For feedback and suggestions for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

Timings
BENGALURU

MONDAY, JAN. 27		
RISE	06:46	SET 18:18
RISE	04:46	SET 16:15
TUESDAY, JAN. 28		
RISE	06:46	SET 18:19
RISE	05:43	SET 17:16
WEDNESDAY, JAN. 29		
RISE	06:46	SET 18:19
RISE	06:35	SET 18:16

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	30	19
Mysuru	32	16
Bengaluru	31	15

Bengaluru Today
30°C Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be slight warm. Night also will be cool.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
30°C The weather will be dry. Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be slight warm. Night also will be cool and hazy.

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THE HINDU
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BMTC begins full bus wrap advertisements

The corporation aims to generate ₹3 crore revenue every month with this initiative; in the financial year 2023-24, BMTC earned ₹811 crore through non-traffic revenue streams

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

In a move to enhance revenue generation through alternative means, the Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) has started to fully wrap its 3,000 non-AC buses with advertisements. This marks a departure from the previous practice of allowing advertisements only on the rear side of buses.

BMTC officials estimate this initiative will generate over ₹3 crore revenue every month.

A senior BMTC official said, "We have awarded a tender to wrap buses with advertisements, creating an alternative revenue stream. Each bus will provide approximately 350 sq.ft of advertising space, covering areas such as louver glass and the driver's back panel. However, window glass and passenger seat backs are excluded from advertising. Additionally, handle grips and seat backs will be utilised for advertising purposes."

Adherence to guidelines

The advertisements will strictly comply with the Outdoor Signage and Public Messaging Bye-laws of the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP). BMTC officials also assured that critical information on buses, such as the BMTC logo, vehicle registration number, and depot details, will remain unobstructed.

To address environmental concerns, BMTC has opted for eco-friendly materials for these advertisements. Officials stated that these materials will not leave stains or cause damage when removed, ensuring the buses maintain their aesthetic appeal. Additionally, as per government regulations, all advertisements will include Kannada text. "The buses will remain visually appealing, and the materials used will not compromise their appearance," an official added.

Currently, the BMTC has 6,158 buses, of which 1,027 are electric buses. FILE PHOTO

Passenger visibility concerns

In 2018, stickers were removed from the lower glass panels of 4,000 buses after passengers raised concerns. BMTC officials said that they have now ensured that the new wraps will use transparent materials to maintain clear visibility from inside the buses.

Commuters have expressed mixed opinions about the new initiative. Pavithra H.G., a frequent BMTC user from Vijayanagar, said, "It's a great idea to utilise buses as advertising platforms without affecting passenger convenience. It's also good to know that the materials won't harm the buses."

However, Rajesh K., another commuter, from Rajajinagar disagreed, saying, "While the revenue is necessary, the advertisements might still be distracting for passengers. Clear visibility from all windows should be the priority and people might get confused about the BMTC bus since it may look like private buses which carry factory and IT employees."

Cost and revenue

The cost of installing advertisements on each bus ranges from ₹12,000 to ₹13,000. With 3,000 buses set to feature advertisements, BMTC anticipates a substantial boost to its income. Currently, the BMTC has 6,158 buses, of which 1,027 are electric buses.

In the financial year 2023-24, BMTC earned ₹811 crore through non-traffic revenue streams such as leasing land, bus station spaces, stalls, offices, and parking facilities. Advertisements on the rear of buses also contributed to this figure.

The BMTC's initiative follows a similar effort by the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL), which issued a tender in October 2024 to wrap metro train coaches with advertisements as part of its non-fare revenue strategy. So far, only one train has been wrapped, though not for commercial purposes. In March 2022, the BMRCL wrapped a train with visuals and slogans celebrating India's freedom struggle as part of the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' programme.

POCSO case: Man arrested

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Ramamurthy Nagar police on Saturday booked a scrap vendor for allegedly getting into a relationship with and sexually assaulting a 15-year-old girl for many months.

The accused, Imran, 20, allegedly took the victim, a Class 9 student, home, and sexually assaulted her.

Threatened against telling anyone about the incident, the victim kept it away from her parents. The incident came to light when teachers noticed her being irregular to school and informed the same to her parents. The mother questioned the child who narrated her ordeal.

The parents then lodged a complaint with the police. Later, the police detained the accused and subjected the victim to a medical examination.

Imran was charged under the POCSO Act, 2012, and Section 65 (1) (RI for not less than 20 years but which may extend to imprisonment for life) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), and further investigation is on.

More direct flights to Indonesia from city

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

With India and Indonesia signing an MoU for increasing flight services between the two countries, Bengaluru stands to gain as the revised air service agreement is likely to pave the way for more direct flights to Indonesia from the city.

The MoU, which was signed recently, will permit Indonesian airlines to operate flights to Indian cities and will allow Indian carriers to increase the flight frequency on existing routes.

Indonesian airlines are likely to operate flights to Bengaluru and Hyderabad. Likewise, Indian carriers like Indigo, which currently operates daily direct flights between Bengaluru and Denpasar in Bali, can increase their frequency or launch direct flights to new destinations like Jakarta.

"Connectivity between the two countries was discussed. We now have 21 flights a week between India and Indonesia. We have flights from Bengaluru to Bali, Mumbai to Jakarta and Delhi to Bali and we will soon have a flight from Delhi to Jakarta as well. This is important because both sides emphasised the importance of people-to-people connect. Tourism is an important area. We had, last year, nearly 7,00,000 Indian tourists visiting Indonesia. It is a very huge jump from what it was a few years ago. And there is potential for increasing that manyfold," said Jaideep Mazumdar, Secretary (East), MEA, at a press meet during the President of Indonesia Prabowo Subianto's visit to India.

IndiGo commenced daily direct flights from Bengaluru to Denpasar in Bali on March 29, 2024. As per DGCA data available till September 2024, 61,427 passengers travelled to and from Denpasar in the first few months after the commencement of direct flight service between the two cities.

ಶ್ರೀ ಸಿದ್ದರಾಮಯ್ಯ
ಸನ್ಮಾನ್ಯ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳು

ಕನ್ನಡ ಮತ್ತು ಸಂಸ್ಕೃತಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ

ಶ್ರೀ ಡಿ.ಕೆ. ಶಿವಕುಮಾರ್
ಮಾನ್ಯ ಉಪಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳು

ನಾಡದೇವಿ ಭುವನೇಶ್ವರಿ ಕಂಚಿನ ಪ್ರತಿಮೆ ಅನಾವರಣ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮ

ದಿನಾಂಕ : 27.01.2025, ಸೋಮವಾರ, ಸಮಯ: ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ
ಸ್ಥಳ : ವಿಧಾನಸೌಧದ ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ ದಿಕ್ಕಿನ ಗೇಟ್ ನಂ.1 ಮತ್ತು 2ರ ನಡುವೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

ಪ್ರತಿಮೆಯ ಅನಾವರಣ: ಶ್ರೀ ಸಿದ್ದರಾಮಯ್ಯ, ಸನ್ಮಾನ್ಯ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳು, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ

•ಗೌರವ ಉಪಸ್ಥಿತಿ•

ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ ನಿರ್ಮಲಾ ಸೀತಾರಾಮನ್
ಮಾನ್ಯ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಹಣಕಾಸು ಕಾರ್ಪೋರೇಟ್ ವ್ಯವಹಾರಗಳ ಸಚಿವರು, ಭಾರತ ಸರ್ಕಾರ

ಶ್ರೀ ಡಿ.ಕೆ. ಶಿವಕುಮಾರ್
ಮಾನ್ಯ ಉಪ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ

ಕುಮಾರಿ ಶೋಭಾ ಕರಂದ್ಲಾಜೆ
ಮಾನ್ಯ ಸಣ್ಣ, ಅತಿಸಣ್ಣ ಮತ್ತು ಮಧ್ಯಮ ಕೈಗಾರಿಕೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕ ಉದ್ಯೋಗ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸಚಿವರು ಭಾರತ ಸರ್ಕಾರ

ಸನ್ಮಾನ್ಯ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳಾದ ಶ್ರೀ ಸಿದ್ದರಾಮಯ್ಯ ರವರೊಂದಿಗೆ ಮಾನ್ಯ ಹಿಂದುಳಿದ ವರ್ಗಗಳ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಹಾಗೂ ಕನ್ನಡ ಮತ್ತು ಸಂಸ್ಕೃತಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಸಚಿವರಾದ ಶ್ರೀ ಶಿವರಾಜ ಎಸ್. ತಂಗಡಗಿ ರವರು ಸಮಾರಂಭದಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಿರುವುದು.

• ಘನ ಉಪಸ್ಥಿತಿ •

ಶ್ರೀ ಬಸವರಾಜ ಶಿವಲಿಂಗಪ್ಪ ಹೊರಟ್ಟಿ
ಸನ್ಮಾನ್ಯ ಸಭಾಪತಿಗಳು, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವಿಧಾನ ಪರಿಷತ್

ಶ್ರೀ ಯು.ಟಿ. ಖಾದರ್
ಸನ್ಮಾನ್ಯ ಸಭಾಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವಿಧಾನಸಭೆ

ಶ್ರೀ ಶಿವರಾಜ ಎಸ್. ತಂಗಡಗಿ
ಮಾನ್ಯ ಹಿಂದುಳಿದ ವರ್ಗಗಳ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಹಾಗೂ ಕನ್ನಡ ಮತ್ತು ಸಂಸ್ಕೃತಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಸಚಿವರು

ಶ್ರೀ ಸತೀಶ ಜಾರಕಿಹೊಳಿ
ಮಾನ್ಯ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಸಚಿವರು

•ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷತೆ•

ಶ್ರೀ ರಿಜ್ವಾನ್ ಅರ್ಷದ್
ಮಾನ್ಯ ಶಾಸಕರು, ಶಿವಾಜಿನಗರ ವಿಧಾನಸಭಾ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರ

• ಮುಖ್ಯ ಅತಿಥಿಗಳು •

ಶ್ರೀ ರಾಮಲಿಂಗಾರೆಡ್ಡಿ
ಮಾನ್ಯ ಸಾರಿಗೆ ಮತ್ತು ಮುಜರಾಯಿ ಸಚಿವರು

ಶ್ರೀ ಕೆ.ಜೆ. ಜಾರ್ಜ್
ಮಾನ್ಯ ಇಂಧನ ಸಚಿವರು

ಶ್ರೀ ದಿನೇಶ್ ಗುಂಡೂರಾವ್
ಮಾನ್ಯ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಸಚಿವರು

ಶ್ರೀ ಕೃಷ್ಣ ಭೈರೇಗೌಡ
ಮಾನ್ಯ ಕಂದಾಯ ಸಚಿವರು

ಶ್ರೀ ಸುರೇಶ ಬಿ.ಎಸ್.
ಮಾನ್ಯ ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಸಚಿವರು

ಶ್ರೀ ಬಿ. ಝಡ್. ಜಮೀರ್ ಅಹಮದ್ ಖಾನ್
ಮಾನ್ಯ ವಸತಿ, ವಕ್ಫ್ ಮತ್ತು ಅಲ್ಪಸಂಖ್ಯಾತರ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಸಚಿವರು

ಶ್ರೀ ಛಲವಾದಿ ಟಿ. ನಾರಾಯಣಸ್ವಾಮಿ
ಮಾನ್ಯ ವಿರೋಧ ಪಕ್ಷದ ನಾಯಕರು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವಿಧಾನ ಪರಿಷತ್

ಶ್ರೀ ಆರ್. ಅಶೋಕ್
ಮಾನ್ಯ ವಿರೋಧ ಪಕ್ಷದ ನಾಯಕರು, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವಿಧಾನಸಭೆ

ಶ್ರೀ ಅಶೋಕ್ ಮಹದೇವಪ್ಪ ಪಟ್ಟಣ್
ಮಾನ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಸಚೇತಕರು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವಿಧಾನಸಭೆ

ಶ್ರೀ ಸಲೀಂ ಅಹ್ಮದ್
ಮಾನ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಸಚೇತಕರು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವಿಧಾನ ಪರಿಷತ್

ಶ್ರೀ ದೊಡ್ಡನಗೌಡ ಎಚ್. ಪಾಟೀಲ್
ಮಾನ್ಯ ವಿರೋಧ ಪಕ್ಷದ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಸಚೇತಕರು, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವಿಧಾನಸಭೆ

ಶ್ರೀ ಎನ್.ಎ. ಹ್ಯಾರೀಸ್
ಮಾನ್ಯ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ ಹಾಗೂ ಶಾಸಕರು, ಶಾಂತಿನಗರ ವಿಧಾನಸಭಾ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರ

ಶ್ರೀ ಬಿ. ಶಿವಣ್ಣ
ಮಾನ್ಯ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಸಾರಿಗೆ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ ಹಾಗೂಶಾಸಕರು, ಆನೇಕಲ್ ವಿಧಾನಸಭಾ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರ

ಡಾ. ಕೆ. ಗೋವಿಂದರಾಜ್
ಮಾನ್ಯ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಯವರ ರಾಜಕೀಯ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಶಾಸಕರು, ವಿಧಾನ ಪರಿಷತ್

ಶ್ರೀ ನಸೀರ್ ಅಹ್ಮದ್
ಮಾನ್ಯ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಯವರ ರಾಜಕೀಯಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಶಾಸಕರು, ವಿಧಾನ ಪರಿಷತ್

ಡಾ. ಪುರುಷೋತ್ತಮ ಬಿಳಿಮಲೆ
ಮಾನ್ಯ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು ಕನ್ನಡ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

ನುಡಿದಂತೆ ನಡೆದಿದ್ದೇವೆ... ಶಕ್ತಿ ಮಹಿಳೆಯರಿಗೆ ಬಸ್ ಪ್ರಯಾಣ ಉಚಿತ | ಗೃಹಜ್ಯೋತಿ ಪ್ರತಿ ಮನೆಗೆ 200 ಯೂನಿಟ್ | ಅನ್ನಭಾಗ್ಯ 10kg | ಗೃಹಲಕ್ಷ್ಮಿ ₹2000 | ಯುವನಿಧಿ ₹3000 | ₹1500

ಅತಿಥಿಗಳು : ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರದ ಮಾನ್ಯ ಲೋಕಸಭಾ ಸದಸ್ಯರು, ರಾಜ್ಯಸಭಾ ಸದಸ್ಯರು, ವಿಧಾನಸಭಾ ಸದಸ್ಯರು, ವಿಧಾನ ಪರಿಷತ್ ಸದಸ್ಯರು ಹಾಗೂ ಚುನಾಯಿತ ಪ್ರತಿನಿಧಿಗಳು

"ನಮ್ಮ ವೈವಿಧ್ಯಮಯ ಸಂಸ್ಕೃತಿಯ ಶ್ರೇಷ್ಠ ಪರಂಪರೆಯನ್ನು ಗೌರವಿಸುವುದು ಮತ್ತು ರಕ್ಷಿಸುವುದು" – ಇದು ಪ್ರತಿಯೊಬ್ಬ ಭಾರತೀಯನ ಸಂವಿಧಾನಬದ್ಧ ಕರ್ತವ್ಯ.

ಸರ್ವರಿಗೂ ಆದರದ ಸುಸ್ವಾಗತ

ಡಾ. ಎಸ್. ಮಂಜುಳ, ಭಾ.ಆ.ಸೇ.
ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಗಳು ಕನ್ನಡ ಮತ್ತು ಸಂಸ್ಕೃತಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ

ಡಾ. ಧರಣೀದೇವಿ ಮಾಲಗತ್ತಿ, ಭಾ.ಪೊ.ಸೇ.
ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು ಕನ್ನಡ ಮತ್ತು ಸಂಸ್ಕೃತಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ

ಡಾ. ಎಸ್. ಸೆಲ್ವಕುಮಾರ್, ಭಾ.ಆ.ಸೇ.
ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಪ್ರಧಾನ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಗಳು ಲೋಕಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ

ಸಿ. ಸತ್ಯನಾರಾಯಣ, ಐ.ಇ., ಎಫ್.ಐ.ಇ
ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಗಳು ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ

ಬನ್ನಿ, ನಾಡದೇವಿಯ ಕಂಚಿನ ಪ್ರತಿಮೆಯ ಅನಾವರಣದ ಐತಿಹಾಸಿಕ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮದಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾಲ್ಗೊಳ್ಳೋಣ.

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Percentage growth in automobile exports from India in 2024

19 in per cent. Automobile exports from India rose 19% year-on-year in 2024 led by a robust dispatch of two-wheelers, passenger vehicles, and commercial vehicles, according to SIAM data. Overall shipments rose to 50,98,810 units last year. PTI

Migrant transfers from Italy to Albania detention centres

49 Italy's navy on Sunday was taking 49 migrants it picked up in international waters to detention facilities in Albania, the Ministry said, resuming a plan to curb sea arrivals mired in legal controversy. A further 53, who were also picked up, were in Italy awaiting verification of their status. REUTERS

People killed in gasoline tanker explosion in Nigeria

18 At least 18 people died and 10 others were injured in southern Nigeria after a gasoline tanker exploded. The accident happened along the Enugu-Onitsha expressway in the southeastern state of Enugu. Earlier this month, 98 people were killed in a gasoline tanker blast in north-central Nigeria. AP

Death toll among UN and South African peacekeepers

13 Malawi and Uruguay said four of their troops were killed in clashes in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo against Rwandan-backed rebels, bringing the death toll among United Nations and southern African peacekeepers to at least 13 by Sunday. REUTERS

Mayoral seats won by BJP in urban local polls in Uttarakhand

10 The BJP on Sunday swept the urban local body elections in Uttarakhand, winning 10 out of 11 mayoral seats to emerge as the dominant party in the municipal councils and nagar panchayats. A total of 5,405 candidates were in the fray. PTI

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Should Governors head State universities?

The Governor's role as Chancellor of State universities has become politicised, undermining university autonomy and causing governance issues, especially in States with Opposition-led governments: various reform models have been proposed to reduce political interference and improve university administration

LETTER & SPIRIT

K. Ashok Vardhan Shetty

GETTY IMAGES

The role of the Governor as Chancellor of State universities is a subject of intense debate. It is often misconstrued as a post-Independence measure to safeguard universities against political interference. This role has not been assigned to the Governor by the Constitution of India but by State university laws. Inherited from British colonial rule, it was designed to restrict university autonomy rather than promote it.

In 1857, the British established the first three universities in Calcutta, Bombay, and Madras, appointing Governors of the respective presidencies as their ex-officio Chancellors to maintain direct control. As Chancellor, the Governor became the head of the university and was granted powers such as appointing Vice-Chancellors, nominating members to university bodies like the Syndicate, approving delegated legislation under the university law, and presiding over convocations. Unfortunately, this model of "Governor as Chancellor" was adopted wholesale for State universities even after Independence, without reassessing its relevance in a democratic and federal context.

A politicised office

Initially, from 1947 to 1967, the dominance of the Congress party at both the Centre and State levels ensured that Governors remained ceremonial figures, with Chief Ministers wielding real power. Consequently, there was little impetus to amend the colonial-era provision of "Governor as Chancellor."

However, the political landscape changed after 1967 when several States were ruled by parties other than the ruling party or coalition at the Centre. Governors increasingly transformed from neutral constitutional functionaries to political instruments of the Central government. This change saw them asserting control over university affairs, which often resulted in clashes with State governments. Efforts to amend university laws for change of Chancellor faced roadblocks, as Governors either delayed approving such amendments or referred them to the President. Only a few States succeeded in getting the amendments passed.

Even the Centre's First Administrative Reforms Commission (1966-77) criticised the politicisation of the Governor's office, highlighting the appointment of defeated politicians, which eroded the office's dignity. The Sarkaria Commission (1983-88) on Centre-State Relations, revealed that over 60% of Governors had been active politicians, many of them immediately before their appointment, with quality declining steeply after the Nehru era. Professor Ashok Pankaj's study (1950-2015) found that 52% of Governors were politicians, 26% were retired bureaucrats, and only 22% hailed from academia, the judiciary, or the armed forces. It highlighted a growing trend of appointing Governors based on political loyalty, undermining the office's credibility and exacerbating its misuse.

Governor's dual role

Constitutionally, a Governor's powers are divided into two categories: those exercised as Governor, where he is bound to act on the advice of the Council of Ministers as per Article 163(1), and those conferred by statutes, such as the role of Chancellor of State universities, where he can act at his discretion, independent of ministerial advice, unless the statute mandates otherwise. The Supreme Court has upheld this distinction. This has enabled Governors to bypass ministerial advice in critical university matters like appointing Vice-Chancellors, nominating members to university bodies, and approving subordinate legislation, particularly in Opposition-ruled States.

Governor and the President

Despite similar legal frameworks, a stark contrast exists between the Governor's role as Chancellor of State universities and the President's role as Visitor of Central universities. The key difference is the level of consultation and legislative oversight.

The President maintains a cordial relationship with the Centre. He functions through the Ministry of Education and consults with it for appointments of Vice-Chancellors, nomination of members to university bodies, and approval of 'statutes' (a type of delegated legislation under the university law). Central university laws require the statutes, along with other types of delegated legislation called 'ordinances' and 'regulations', to be laid before the Parliament.

In contrast, the Governor acts unilaterally while performing similar functions for State universities, often bypassing the State's Ministry of Higher Education entirely, particularly in Opposition-ruled States. State University laws do not mandate laying delegated legislation – statutes, ordinances, and regulations – before the Legislature. This is a significant flaw rooted in the continuation of colonial-era practices.

Existing challenges

The persistence of the "Governor as Chancellor" model has caused numerous problems in the governance of State universities.

While State governments fund these universities, Governors wield substantial power without corresponding accountability. This creates a dual authority system, forcing university leadership to serve two masters, often with conflicting demands.

Disagreements between Governors and State governments, particularly in Opposition-ruled States, lead to delays in appointing Vice-Chancellors, causing administrative paralysis. These delays affect areas such as the appointment of staff, the implementation of projects, and even the awarding of degrees.

Many Governors lack the academic qualifications or experience necessary to effectively guide educational institutions. They tend to rely on limited, non-transparent advice, leading to questionable decisions.

Rather than insulating universities from politics, some Governors exacerbate political interference, often prioritising the Centre's political agenda over the universities' autonomy and interests.

Allowing Governors – appointed by the Centre – to control State institutions compromises the principle of federalism. State universities should be fully accountable to elected State governments.

Insights from Commissions

Various commissions have examined the Governor's role as Chancellor and proposed reforms. The Rajamannar Committee (1969-71) on Centre-State relations, appointed by the Government of Tamil Nadu, argued that the Governor's statutory functions are included within the meaning of 'functions' under Article 163(1). So, the Governor should perform his statutory functions as Chancellor also on the advice of the State government. However, the Supreme Court has not upheld this interpretation.

The Sarkaria Commission (1983-88) on Centre-State relations, recognised that the Governor's role as Chancellor is statutory, not constitutional, and must be defined by State laws. It recommended that Governors consult with Chief Ministers while retaining independent judgment in university matters.

The National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution (2000-02), headed by Justice M.N. Venkatachaliah, advocated for political neutrality, a clearer definition of the Chancellor's functions, a supportive rather than authoritative role, and greater university autonomy.

The M.M.Punchhi Commission (2007-10) on Centre-State relations recommended that the Governor focus on constitutional responsibilities, avoiding statutory roles like that of Chancellor to preserve the dignity of the office. It suggested that States appoint eminent academics or experts as Chancellors to ensure academic independence and prevent conflicts.

Alternative models

The ideal Chancellor model, based on global best practices, envisions the Chancellor as an eminent public figure who provides ceremonial leadership, presides over convocations, acts as an institutional ambassador, and has no executive authority. Universities in the U.K., from whom we borrowed the concept of Chancellor, exemplify this model. There are several ways to amend State university laws to implement this reform: The Governor as Ceremonial Chancellor model removes the Governor's discretionary powers, mandating him to act on the advice of the State Council of Ministers in university matters. Gujarat (1978), Karnataka (2000), and Maharashtra (2021) have adopted variations of this approach.

In the Chief Minister as Chancellor model, critics argue that a ceremonial role does not suit a powerful political figure like the Chief Minister. West Bengal and Punjab passed Bills in 2023 to adopt this system, but they await Presidential assent. In a variation, Tamil Nadu passed a Bill in 2022 substituting 'Government' for 'Chancellor'. It also awaits Presidential assent.

The State-appointed Chancellor model, implemented in Telangana in 2015, has the State government appoint a ceremonial Chancellor. A similar Bill was passed by Kerala in 2022, but it is still awaiting Presidential assent. The Kerala Bill specifies that the appointee should be an eminent academician or public figure.

The Chancellor elected by the University Bodies model empowers university bodies and alumni to elect a ceremonial Chancellor as in Oxford, Cambridge and Edinburgh universities.

In the Chancellor appointed by the University's Executive Council model, several universities in the U.K. (Birmingham), Canada (McGill) and Australia (Melbourne) appoint ceremonial Chancellors through their Executive Council or Board of Governors, following transparent selection processes.

Among these, the State-appointed Chancellor model is the most practical for India, provided the appointees are distinguished academicians or public figures, excluding politicians. The M.M.Punchhi Commission had recommended it.

Dismantling a colonial legacy

Reforming State universities in India demands a careful balance of key principles: ensuring accountability to elected State governments, minimising political interference, promoting institutional self-governance, and fostering academic freedom and excellence. The vital first step is divesting the Governor of his colonial-era role as Chancellor.

While States like Gujarat, Karnataka, Telangana, and Maharashtra have implemented reforms, others such as Tamil Nadu, Kerala, West Bengal, and Punjab face indefinite delays in obtaining Presidential assent for their proposed changes. This disparity underscores the need for impartial treatment by the President and Government of India. There is no valid reason for withholding approval of the pending Bills and resolving such matters through the Supreme Court under Article 131 should be avoided. The Centre should facilitate progressive reforms that seek to dismantle colonial-era administrative structures, guide States towards aligning their university governance models with global best practices, and enable universities to focus on academic excellence free from political entanglements.

The author is a retired IAS officer and a former Vice-Chancellor of the Indian Maritime University, Chennai

THE GIST

- The Governor's role as Chancellor of State universities has led to political interference and diminished university autonomy, particularly in Opposition-ruled States.
- Over the years, Governors have increasingly become political appointees, undermining the credibility of the office and exacerbating conflicts between State governments and the Centre.
- Various commissions have recommended reforms such as appointing academics or public personalities as Chancellors to preserve university autonomy and reduce political influence.

Ahead of Union Budget, State seeks funds from Centre

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

D.K. Shivakumar

The State government has done its duty ahead of the Union Budget seeking funds for the development of Karnataka, said Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, indicating that it was now the Centre's turn to consider the appeal for funds positively. "We have done our duty. Our State stands second in the country in terms of tax collection. Bengaluru has become a global city and it is important that the Centre allocates funds for our city. I have appealed to Union Ministers and the Prime Minister to allocate funds for Karnataka too," he told reporters here on Sunday.

Asked if the State government would grant any funds as it is yet to release ₹5,300 crore for the Upper Bhadra project from the Centre, the Deputy Chief Minister said: "Let us wait and see. Karnataka has so many MPs in Delhi. I believe that Karnataka will not get a raw deal. (Former Prime Minister) H.D. Deve Gowda and H.D. Kumaraswamy (Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel) had claimed that they would get approval for the Mekedatu project from the Prime Minister in one day, but we are still waiting. We are also waiting for Pralhad Joshi and Jagadish Shettar to get us environmental clearance for the Kalasa-Banduri project. We are doing our best."

DKS: Organise Gandhi Bharat programmes

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Deputy Chief Minister and KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar on Sunday said that he had appealed to AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge to organise Gandhi Bharat programmes throughout the year across all Assembly constituencies.

"These programmes are for all sections of society and not limited to the Congress. This is an attempt to spread the values of Gandhiji and B.R. Ambedkar and also to protect the Constitution," Mr. Shivakumar told reporters during the 76th Republic Day celebrations at the KPCC office.

Regarding his meeting with Mr. Kharge, he asked: "Can't he [Mr. Kharge] peacefully sit and have coffee in the building that he built for the KPCC? Do you discuss internal matters of the family in public?."

Feast for the eyes: There was action and colour at the Republic Day celebrations in Bengaluru on Sunday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Karnataka has seen 13% growth in revenue, says Governor

It is one of the best developing States while simultaneously achieving economic growth and social justice equally: Gehlot

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot during the Republic Day celebrations in Bengaluru on Sunday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

The State government has managed its finances well and is promoting economic growth, Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot said on Sunday, referring to Karnataka achieving a year-on-year growth of 13% with its revenue collection standing at ₹1.81 lakh crore by the end of December.

"Karnataka has achieved the distinction of being one of the best developing States, while simultaneously achieving economic growth and social justice equally," he said during the 76th Republic Day celebrations here on Sunday.

Defending the five guarantees, the Governor said the government had successfully implemented them, attracting the attention of the country and "falsified the pessimistic prediction" that these schemes would result in financial crisis and stunt Karnataka's development.

He said that Karnataka is striving hard to strengthen the ideals of social and economic justice. "The increasing economic inequality in the country has resulted in setback to social and economic justice. Understanding the hardship faced by the people of Karnataka, the guarantee schemes were introduced," he said.

Since August 2023, a total of ₹35,180 crore had been disbursed under the Gruha Lakshmi scheme, while ₹13,409 crore had been released as subsidy under the Gruha Jyothi that benefits 1.62 crore consumers.

The government had allocated ₹9,051 crore for the Shakti scheme under which a total of 373 crore trips had been undertaken by women.

A total of ₹9,775 crore had been transferred through DBT to 4.48 crore beneficiaries as part of the Anna Bhagya scheme, he said.

Karnataka, according to the Governor, was first in overall exports, with exports worth $88,853 million between April and September 2024-2025, reporting a 11.17% growth over the corresponding period of last year.

The Governor said: "The government has played a major role in ensuring social justice in the overall development of Karnataka and allocation of wealth besides remaining ahead in providing basic infrastructure facilities such as health, electricity, education, and roads."

Karnataka, he said, is fully committed to upholding the practices of the principles of the union and has raised its voice whenever the tenets of federalism have been compromised.

Mr. Gehlot said that during the financial year 2024-2025, a total of ₹15,612 crore had been disbursed to 18.51 lakh farmers as short-term agriculture loans, while the disbursement of medium-term and long-term loans to about 39,000 farmers stood at ₹1,165 crore.

He said that the government had allocated adequate funds for guarantee schemes and other welfare programmes in order to promote holistic and inclusive development of the State. He also listed a host of social welfare programmes introduced by the government.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah was among the dignitaries present. The celebrations were marked by a parade and cultural programmes.

Deve Gowda to undertake tour from March to strengthen party

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU/HASSAN

H.D. Deve Gowda FILE PHOTO

Former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda on Sunday said that from March he will travel across the State to strengthen the Janata Dal (Secular) ahead of elections to local bodies.

"I will travel across the State. Along with workers and leaders, I will organise the party. H.D. Kumaraswamy is now a Union Minister. Nikhil Kumaraswamy and I will build a cadre of young workers," he said, while hoisting the national flag at the party office in Bengaluru. The party will be strengthened from the gram panchayat level, he added.

Meanwhile, speaking to presspersons during his visit to Dodda Genigere village in Hassan taluk, Mr. Gowda said he will give attention to strengthening the party's organisation in Hassan district in the coming days and hold a series of meetings with leaders soon.

Mr. Gowda said that he would visit Hassan soon after the coming Lok Sabha session. He would stay in Hassan for some time and meet the leaders of the party. "We will work out strategies to strengthen the party's organisation after discussing with leaders in the district," he said.

Mr. Gowda visited Dodda Genigere village to attend the post-death ceremony of Patel Shivaram, former MLC and senior leader of the JD(S).

> I will travel across the State. Along with workers and leaders, I will organise the party. H.D. Kumaraswamy is now a Union Minister. Nikhil Kumaraswamy and I will build a cadre of young workers.

Harangi backwaters in Kodagu under threat from pollution and party-goers

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
KUSHALNAGAR

Visitors often leave behind a trail of waste, including beer bottles, plates, and leftovers. K. BHAGYA PRAKASH

The scenic Harangi backwaters, a favourite picnic spot in Kodagu district, is now under threat from increasing pollution and mismanagement. Once cherished for its pristine beauty and tranquil surroundings, the area has become a hotspot for antisocial activities, much to the dismay of locals.

When *The Hindu* visited the backwaters, it was found that visitors often leave behind a trail of waste, including beer bottles, plates, and leftovers, tarnishing the natural charm of the backwaters.

Residents in the area have raised concerns, demanding immediate intervention to curb these activities and preserve the site.

'Heartbreaking'

"It's heartbreaking to see the place in this condition. People park their vehicles here, party overnight, and leave without cleaning up. Their rubbish eventually finds its way into the water, endangering both the environment and the aquatic life," said Mohan Kumar, a local resident.

The problem is not limited to littering. "There's no sense of accountability among these visitors. I've seen people drinking openly at night and throwing bottles into the water. It feels unsafe for families who visit during the day," said Asha P., a homemaker from the area.

Boards put up

Cauvery Neeravari Nigam Limited, which manages the Harangi backwaters, has taken some steps to address the situation.

Officials have put up boards discouraging littering and unauthorised entry into restricted areas. Additionally, CCTV cameras have been installed to monitor activities, said officials. "Despite our efforts to create awareness through signage and installing CCTV cameras, the issue persists. We will look into the issue and take action," said an official from Cauvery Neeravari Nigam Limited.

Locals, however, feel that these measures fall short. They are calling for stricter enforcement through regular patrols and police presence.

"A few boards and cameras won't solve the problem. Unless authorities start fining people or deploying security, this place will continue to deteriorate," said Mudanna K.P., a retired schoolteacher and local resident who often visits the backwaters for morning walks.

The Harangi, the first major tributary of the Cauvery, merges with it near Kudige, about 5 km north of Kushalnagar in Kodagu district. Before this confluence, the Harangi reservoir stands as a significant feature of the region. The reservoir's catchment area is renowned for its rich biodiversity, forming an integral part of the local ecosystem.

> A few boards and cameras won't solve the problem. Unless authorities start fining people or deploying security, this place will continue to deteriorate.
>
> **MUDANNA K.P.,**
> Retired schoolteacher

Pourakarmikas hoist national flag at BJP office

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A group of pourakarmikas hoisted the national flag on the occasion of Republic Day at the BJP State office in Bengaluru on Sunday.

Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council and Dalit leader Chalavadi Narayanaswamy was present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Narayanaswamy maintained that the BJP government at the Centre had identified the real and worthy achievers for giving the Padma awards. He alleged that the earlier Congress governments were rewarding only those favouring them.

CORRIDORS OF POWER

'Moral obligations' of a reporter

The arrest of a local television cameraman Sharan Raj by the Mangaluru police in connection with a ruckus by Rama Sene activists at a salon on January 23 has raised questions on whether journalists covering crimes should give prior information to the police when they visit a crime spot.

Sharan Raj is accused of joining activists of Rama Sene headed by Prasad Attavar, who allegedly stormed into the salon. Accusing salon owner of illegally running a massage centre, activists damaged furniture and slapped two women employees.

Contending that Sharan Raj had "common intention" along with activists in creating the ruckus, the cameraman and 13 others including Prasad Attavar, were arrested. The police are yet to come out with roles of each of the arrested persons.

A police officer said that Sharan Raj was morally obliged to tip off the police about the intended act. Interestingly, in July 2012, Sharan Raj was among the three journalists who were at the scene when boys and girls were assaulted by a group of fringe elements at a homestay in Mangaluru. Sharan Raj and 38 other accused persons were recently acquitted by a Mangaluru district court.

Empty bookshelf near Sir MV's statue

Government functionaries speak volumes on books to libraries and promoting digital libraries at the gram panchayat level.

Unfortunately, a steel almirah kept for storing books at the statue of Sir M. Visvesvaraya, one of the architects of modern Karnataka, at K.R. Circle in Bengaluru remains empty.

Several writers have written books on M. Visvesvaraya and his name is being widely used in almost all programmes of the Water Resources and Public Works Departments. But the government seems to be not bothered about keeping books at the almirah at the statue of the well-known engineer.

Raghava M.
Nagesh Prabhu

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

SANTHI JYOTHI MARTIN
DOB: 15.03.1964 Vizag
DOD: 27.01.2020 Chennai
"Those who are righteous will be long remembered (Psalm 112:6)"
Deeply Remembered by
J S Martin & Family,
Near & Dear Ones

FIRST ANNIVERSARY

In loving memory of
Mr.V.Sivaramakrishnan
09.02.1940 - 27.01.2024
Your smile, calmness and willpower will be remembered forever.
Family & Friends

IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES
To dedicate a space in this section, Please contact:
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Why are crypto withdrawals being restricted for investors?

Cryptocurrency exchanges operating in India can block or suddenly restrict crypto withdrawals for users in India, leading to confusion, fear, and a loss of trust in Indian fintech companies

Sahana Venugopal

The story so far:

Mudrex, a crypto platform that is "U.S.-headquartered and Bengaluru-based" made headlines this month when it announced it was temporarily pausing crypto withdrawals until January 28, to "enhance the security of our platform and safeguard against bad actors," said the company in an official blog post on January 12. This comes soon after another crypto exchange popular with Indians – CoinDCX – also confused customers with conflicting information regarding its crypto withdrawal policy. Indian crypto investors want to deposit, withdraw, and trade crypto just like their international peers, but this is easier said than done. Crypto traders in the country face several barriers when transacting through centralised exchanges due to unclear domestic laws and vaguely defined risks. Crypto companies often cite these factors to justify restricting crypto withdrawals for customers, thus sparking alarm amongst investors.

GETTY IMAGES

What problems are crypto investors in India facing?

A crypto trader in India who signs up with a popular centralised exchange must undergo a detailed registration process and Know-Your-Customer (KYC) procedures in order to comply with India's Anti-Money Laundering (AML) and Combating the Financing of Terrorism (CFT) regulations.

Customers submit their national identity documents and verify themselves so they can use the company's platform without hurdles, ensuring seamless service in a market sector where asset prices can soar and crash in a matter of seconds.

It is no wonder that many users experience anger or panic when they make profits by trading in crypto through the centralised exchange but then learn to their shock that they cannot withdraw their crypto through the same company.

The social media platform X is filled with complaints from crypto exchange customers who claim that crypto withdrawal policies have changed without warning or that they were not flagged clearly in the first place. This naturally leads to fear as crypto investors wonder if their exchanges are trying to hold on to user assets or are experiencing liquidity shortages.

Why are cryptocurrency exchanges restricting withdrawals?

Different crypto exchanges in India have different policies governing crypto withdrawals. While some allow crypto withdrawals, and others allow it for select users or under special circumstances, there are also companies that block crypto withdrawals for all users without exception.

The most common reasons cited include fears that the Indian authorities could penalise the crypto exchange as a whole if it is discovered that users have been withdrawing their assets in crypto. There are also fears that the withdrawn crypto could be used to carry out illicit acts or buy banned products through dark markets.

CoinDCX did not respond to *The Hindu's* emails regarding its crypto withdrawal policy for this report, but co-founder Sumit Gupta published a thread on X outlining the company's approach in this area.

Mr. Gupta on January 15 acknowledged that while users wanted unrestricted crypto withdrawals, the company had to comply with India's "strict capital controls." He noted the risks of expert criminals escaping detection.

"But once law enforcement agencies get to know about any such cases, they freeze the entire exchange bank accounts indefinitely while they investigate. These exchange bank accounts hold funds from both bad actors and genuine users, directly impacting liquidity of INR funds of our genuine users," said Mr. Gupta in his post on X, when justifying the block on crypto withdrawals.

Another platform, CoinSwitch, followed a similar policy. "We do not allow crypto withdrawals on our platform, however, users can withdraw their investments by converting their crypto into INR on an exchange like ours, and receive the money in their bank accounts," said Balaji Srihari, vice president, CoinSwitch, in response to *The Hindu's* query.

Meanwhile, crypto exchange Zebpay, which has its headquarters in Singapore apart from other international offices, offers two customer experience modes. One allows crypto withdrawals, while the other does not.

In response to *The Hindu's* query, Raj Karkara, COO, ZebPay, confirmed that crypto withdrawals were allowed for manual transfers, but not for instant deposits.

"The Instant Deposit feature allows users to add INR funds instantly to their ZebPay accounts, enabling full access to trading and fiat withdrawals. However, crypto withdrawals are disabled while crypto deposits are fully available. This feature requires a one-time virtual account setup and supports transfers through IMPS, NEFT, and RTGS, following standard banking procedures," said Mr. Karkara.

UPI will not be supported in this case.

Meanwhile, manual transfers will have users add Zebpay's bank details to their net banking apps, deposit funds from their registered bank accounts, and upload the image of the transaction receipt or bank statement for proof.

On the other hand, Binance – though not an Indian crypto exchange – registered as a reporting entity with FIU-IND in 2024 after previously being hit with legal action by the Indian authorities.

"Users based in India can withdraw crypto from their Binance accounts," a Binance spokesperson said in response to *The Hindu's* query and did not note any restrictions.

Why is there such a difference? One reason is that Indian law enforcement authorities take a serious view of turning Indian rupees into other currencies, especially when an easily traced asset (like INR) is converted to a harder to trace asset (like Bitcoin) that can be more easily laundered, sent to militants, or channelled into private wallets.

However, users should keep in mind that Binance and WazirX are locked in a legal dispute over whether or not Binance owns the Indian exchange. The legal situation is murky, with a lack of transparency from both sides and is expected to continue for some time.

What options do crypto users in India have?

When crypto withdrawals are no longer an option for traders in India using centralised exchanges in the country, they often have to wait for policies to change with time or pursue less desirable options.

For example, in the face of crypto withdrawal restrictions, many investors might resort to workarounds such as selling off their crypto and withdrawing their assets in rupees, even if this does not align with their investment plan.

Others may be driven to international crypto exchanges that do not comply with Indian tax laws.

Some traders may even avoid this hassle entirely by investing their funds through unregulated/decentralised exchanges with poor safeguards, or relying on platforms actively run by malicious actors.

What needs to happen to enable crypto withdrawals?

The most glaring issue is the absence of clear regulations and laws governing the flow of crypto in India. While the government taxes crypto gains and transactions, the existing legislation does not protect Indian investors and does not encourage Indian crypto businesses either.

In the meantime, several crypto exchanges that support INR trading pairs are upgrading their security and KYC protocols.

CoinDCX's Mr. Gupta said on X the exchange was working on an "enhanced due diligence framework" that would let eligible users withdraw their crypto in the future.

Mudrex also noted that it was working on security, but did not respond to *The Hindu's* email.

CoinSwitch's Mr. Srihari called for regulations so that crypto withdrawals could be opened.

"To officially enable crypto withdrawals for all customers in India, the introduction of clear regulations and a well-defined policy framework for VDAs is essential," he said.

"Proper regulatory guidelines would provide clarity and address concerns around security, compliance, and the prevention of misuse, creating a safe and transparent environment for crypto transactions," he added.

KNOW YOUR ENGLISH

His speech was peppered with anecdotes

His salty comments made the meeting uncomfortable

S. Upendran

"You were supposed to have been here an hour ago!"

"I know! But our Society meeting went on longer than expected."

"I forgot about that! Was there any of the usual shouting and screaming? Did any of..."

"Surprisingly no! One or two people, however, got salty with our President because..."

"They got salty with him? Did they abuse him? Did they call him names?"

"Of course, not! Why would they abuse the poor man? He's doing..."

"Some time ago, you told me that one of the meanings of the word 'salty' is to use abusive language. We talk about salty language. I was shocked to hear the salty language that the old woman was using."

"You must remember, however, that the word 'salty' has several other meanings as well. In informal contexts, it's frequently used to mean angry or upset."

"So, someone who is annoyed is salty?"

"I guess you could say that. Here's an example. I prefer not to play with someone like Dilip. Every time he loses, he becomes salty."

"Meaning he gets very upset when he loses. How about this example? My cousin Mala gets salty whenever I refuse to go shopping with her."

"Doesn't she know you hate shopping?"

"She chooses to conveniently ignore that fact."

"That definitely sounds like Mala! So, tell me, did a lot of people ask questions at the meeting?"

"The poor President was peppered with questions. He just..."

"Peppered with questions? Does it mean to ask someone a lot of questions?"

"Like the word 'salt', 'pepper' has many different meanings. When you pepper someone, it usually suggests that you're hitting him repeatedly with your fists."

"Only with the fists? Can it be with a rod or a stick?"

"Yes, it can be any object. The old boxer peppered with his young opponent with jabs."

"The teacher peppered the student stinging blows with his cane."

"The expression 'pepper with' can be used figuratively as well. The fast bowlers peppered the batsmen with bouncers."

"Does the expression have any other meaning?"

"Yes, it does. When you pepper something, you use it or include it in many different places. For example, as expected, Rajesh peppered his presentation with jokes and anecdotes."

"In other words, there was a liberal sprinkling of jokes in the presentation."

"In school, whenever we were asked to write an essay, my friend always tried to impress the teacher by peppering his essay with big words."

"That's something that all students wish to do - use big words. Now, thanks to ChatGPT, it's become easy to do."

"Students pepper their essay with words they don't even know the meaning of."

"Here's another example. The film was great. It was peppered with salty dialogue."

"Sounds like your kind of movie."

upendrankye@gmail.com

Word of the day

Fastidious:
giving careful attention to detail; hard to please

Synonyms: Perfectionist, critical, particular

Usage: *She is very fastidious about keeping her room clean.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/fastidiouspro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /fæstɪdiəs/

THE DAILY QUIZ

The Constitution of India came in effect on January 26, 1950. A quiz on the most important legal document

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

Radhika Santhanam

QUESTION 1

This country's Constitution was adopted in 1937. India's Constitution borrows X from this country's Constitution. X are the ideals that a state must keep in mind while framing policies or enacting laws. Name X. Also name the country from which X was borrowed; it also fought Britain.

QUESTION 2

This student of Abanindranath Tagore was influenced by the murals in the Ajanta caves. He was among the first Fellows of Lalit Kala Akademi. Name this artist who illustrated the Constitution.

QUESTION 3

Both Nehru and Ambedkar opposed the inclusion of this word in the Constitution as they believed that the way in which it is used and understood in the Western context would not fit into India's multireligious landscape. It was in 1976 that this word was finally added in the Preamble. What is this word that we hear all the time in political discourse?

QUESTION 4

He is often known as the architect of modern Bihar. Who is this man, who was the first chairman of the Constituent Assembly?

QUESTION 5

On January 26, 1950, India was declared a Sovereign Democratic Republic in the Government House's Darbar Hall. This last Governor-General of India was present at the ceremony. He was one of the Chief Ministers of the Madras Presidency and leader of the Indian National Congress. Name him.

Visual Question:
This is the original Preamble of the Indian Constitution. Who was the calligrapher who wrote in English?

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. Before becoming an actor, Ghai acted in some films. In which superhit flick did he play the role of Flight Lieutenant Prakash? **Ans: *Aradhana***
2. Name the two Shatrughan Sinha starrers, bearing the names of two popular cricketers of that era, that were the first two films of Ghai as a director. **Ans: *Kalicharan* and *Vishwanath***
3. Name the production company that he formed in 1982. **Ans: Mukta Arts**
4. Which Ghai film had the controversial song 'Choli Ke Peeche Kya Hai'? **Ans: *Khalnayak***
5. Which actress made her first appearance in '*Pardes*'? **Ans: Mahima Chaudhry**
6. Name the film institute set up by Ghai in 2006. **Ans: Whistling Woods International**
7. Which film of his received the National Film Award for Best Film on Other Social Issues? **Ans: Iqbal**
Visual: This is a still from which Ghai film. **Ans: Saudagar**
Early Birds: Piyali Tuli | Tamal Biswas | Tito Shiladitya | Rajmohan Velayudhan | Sonali Das

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Bengaluru civic body steps up to build bonhomie between community and animals

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike has launched a series of initiatives aimed at addressing the root causes of conflict between people and animals in an urban space

Yemen S.
BENGALURU

BBMP has also fine-tuned its animal grievance helpline and is setting up animal rescue centres across the city. SUDHAKARA JAIN

There are close to 500 schools in each zone and the BBMP is planning to present at least one awareness session in a quarter in each school. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Bengaluru in the year 2024 saw multiple incidents of stray dog attacks, raising public safety concerns. A disturbing case was reported earlier this month from Chamrajpet, where miscreants inflicted brutal injuries on three cows, slashing their udders and stabbing their legs, further highlighting the issue of how human-animal conflicts of a completely different variety emerge in the city space often.

In response to all these issues, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has launched a series of initiatives aimed at addressing the root causes of conflict. Among them is a campaign to promote animal rights awareness in schools and campaigns for the wider public. As part of this effort, BBMP has also finetuned its animal grievance helpline and is setting up animal rescue centres across the city. These centres are the first of their kind in Karnataka.

Awareness campaigns

The BBMP is set to recruit eight agencies, one for each zone, to promote awareness about animal welfare and rights, in educational institutions across Bengaluru. Speaking to *The Hindu*, Suralkar Vikas Kishor, BBMP's Special Commissioner for its Animal Husbandry Department, said the initiative aims to nurture a more compassionate society for animals.

"Right now, the campaigns are happening in a haphazard and unplanned way, and mostly in public spaces, but not in schools. We have decided to call for agencies who will specifically focus on schools in all eight zones within the city. Each agency will handle schools in one or two zones. These agencies will be given a target on how many schools must be covered by them in a time span. The content of activities that will be presented at the schools will be moderated by the BBMP, which will be presented at a regular frequency," Kishor added.

The commissioner said that there are close to 500 schools in each zone and the BBMP is planning to present at least one session in a quarter in each school.

Sessions in schools

Once the agencies are appointed, the zonal assistant directors of the Animal Husbandry Department will collaborate with schools and colleges in their respective zones to conduct sessions. The agencies will be provided with audience authorisation forms by the BBMP, ensuring that each educational institution allocates 15 to 20 minutes per class for these sessions. The sessions will educate students about animal behaviour, fostering respect for animals and teaching them how to interact with them safely.

"The focus will be on dispelling irrational fears about animals while emphasising the importance of maintaining a safe distance. Students will also learn that animals may react aggressively if their space is invaded or their young are threatened," Kishor explained.

The BBMP has also introduced the Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) initiative to address the growing incidents of animal abuse involving stray animals in Bengaluru. Under the theme - Public Health through Animal Health -- the initiative aims to raise awareness through engaging street plays and flash mobs at 250 locations across the city. As part of the campaign, the BBMP is also utilising garbage collection vans to broadcast awareness messages via microphones and display posters, with the pilot phase currently underway in the Yelahanka and Mahadevapura zones. The animal welfare events, which kicked off on January 18, and are being held at various high-footfall locations, including malls, parks, slums, lakes, and other public spaces.

Helpline finetuned

The BBMP has also finetuned its existing 1533 helpline to address concerns related to community animals more specifically. "Citizens can reach out by dialling 1533, using the mobile app or logging requests through the Bangalore One portal. Once a request is logged, our veterinary inspectors, who also serve as authorised anti-cruelty officers for each ward, will visit the site," said the BBMP in a release recently.

Along with addressing common issues such as animal birth control, anti-rabies vaccinations, and dog bite management, the helpline will also provide support for cases of harassment of animal feeders, control of animal breeding, and licensing-related matters, said officials.

"Through the helpline we will take action based on specific complaints. Based on the seriousness of each category, we have tweaked the timings within which the officer has to respond," said Kishor. Animal birth control and anti-rabies vaccinations are to be resolved within five days, harassment of feeders in two to three days, breeder and pet shop licenses within seven days, animal cruelty cases in two days, and rescues within one to two days, on a limited scale.

The BBMP will soon be opening small animal rescue centres for dogs and cats in three zones in the city to rescue and treat stray animals. GETTY IMAGES

Rescue centres

The BBMP will soon be opening small animal rescue centres for dogs and cats in three zones in the city to rescue and treat stray animals, making this the BBMP the first civic body in Karnataka to establish a rescue centre for animals.

The commissioner explained that animals that are injured, undergo cruelty by any entity and are terminally ill will be rescued and treated at these centres. "Currently there are private firms running animal rescue centres in the city. They do it out of compassion for animals, but it requires them to raise funds to facilitate the centres, because of which limited number of animals are rescued," said Kishor.

The BBMP will host the animal, do basic treatment, and if additional medical care or surgery is required, the BBMP will tie up with government or private facilities where the treatment will be provided.

The BBMP will kickstart these centres in Dasarahalli, East, and South zones. The BBMP has already issued the work order in Dasarahalli zone. Tenders have been invited for the centres in East and South zones. In three months, all the centres are expected to be operational. The BBMP will also treat abandoned pets and will coordinate with the NGOs for adoption. These are rescue centres and restricted for small animals, and not for cattle and wild animals.

Streamlining processes

Animal rights activists have welcomed these moves, but sought streamlining of processes. Anuradha Rao, a member of the South Bangalore Creative Commune, that also runs the Mini Forest Commune that fosters the care of stray animals, said that the BBMP animal rescue centres must not just be restricted to cats and dogs and must be streamlined for all kinds of stray animals. "There are many stray cattle also on the streets of Bengaluru, which often end up injured and also creating problems for the public," she said. She further said that there are many strays that suffer from cancer and other fatal diseases, due to which even after treatment the strays are not fully recovered and can not live a normal life again in their localities. "In my own experience an old stary dog in our street was treated by a rescue centre and brought back to the location, however, it could hardly walk, and was hit by a moving vehicle. It died after two days. Streets are not safe for recovering strays, or strays that are on the last leg of their lives," she added, underlining the need for special focus on such cases.

She also underlined the need for more government or BBMP-run veterinary centres and ambulances. For South Bengaluru alone, there was just one BBMP-run veterinary centre on R.V. Road, which was shut for a long time. Tenders were called to run the centre, and it kickstarted soon.

Pranav Sreenath, a resident of R.R. Nagar and a dog lover, hoped that the good initiative will not be caught in red tape like several other government moves. Priya Menon, a Koramangala resident and a dog feeder, said, "As someone who feeds strays in my neighbourhood every day, I really want to believe the BBMP's rescue centres will make a difference. But I have seen so many plans start with a lot of promise and fizzle out. These animals need consistent care, and a home, not just a temporary fix. I hope that real help reaches animals that need it most."

Doctors study management after realising its importance during the pandemic

The General Management Programme for Healthcare Executives at the IIM-B has helped many doctors to climb into managerial positions

Jahnavi T. R.
BENGALURU

Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore. K. MURALI KUMAR

The 10-month programme so far had six cohorts of healthcare workers

The COVID-19 pandemic changed the lives of many people in one way or another. This was especially true of healthcare workers. At the peak of the pandemic, after having to take up managerial tasks, some doctors decided to go a step further and pursue a management degree to bring in better administrative changes in the system.

The General Management Programme for Healthcare Executives (GMHE) at the Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIMB) has helped many such doctors to climb into managerial positions. The ten-months programme so far had six cohorts of healthcare workers.

"The pandemic hit like a storm, and I found myself in the heart of the chaos—working in the Central War Room with the Principal Secretary of Health and Family Welfare. My days blurred into nights, juggling statistics, bed allocations, data compilation, issuing guidelines, and setting up oxygen plants. It was all hands-on deck, nonstop," recalls Dr. Riyaz Basha, registrar, Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences (RGUHS).

He added, "At the peak of the crisis, most decisions were driven by data, with IAS officers at the helm. And while doctors were on the ground, the system needed more than just frontline warriors—it needed sharp, pragmatic administrators who could navigate bureaucracy. That realisation lit a fire in me. I wanted to manage at scale."

People management

This led him to join the GMHE to acquire the tools to align a workforce with the fundamentals of modern medicine. After finishing the course, Dr. Riyaz, who was the Deputy Registrar at the time, was asked to take up the role of the Registrar at RGUHS. He highlights three things that he learnt during his course - people management, finance and budgeting and brand building.

Today, he manages 1,000 institutions which come under RGUHS's jurisdiction and oversees exams for nearly three lakh students across Health Sciences—ranging from Medical to Allied Health Sciences, UG and PG levels, Super-specialty, and PhD programmes.

Similarly, Dr. Anie Mathew, a general dentist with over nine years of experience and working in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) found herself thrust into the role of managing a team of over a hundred nurses, physicians, technicians and support staff when she was chosen to lead a COVID - 19 task force.

"The urgency of our tasks left little room for deliberation and every decision felt like a race against time. It was during those moments of chaos that I found myself wishing I had formal training in management operations—a blueprint to help me allocate resources, estimate staffing needs, and build a solid strategy rather than relying on instinct alone," she said speaking about her decision to pursue the GMHE course.

Her interactions with her peers during the course steered the dentist towards neuro-rehabilitation. In her current role as General Manager of Operations at Svatantra Integrative Neuro Rehabilitation Centre, Dr. Mathew oversees a centre dedicated to post-stroke and neurological recovery.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JANUARY 27, 1975

Governor Grows Wheat

Bangalore, Jan. 26. A good crop of 'Sonalika', a high-yielding variety of wheat, is due for harvest shortly at the Raj Bhavan Estate here.

The Karnataka Governor, Mr. Mohanlal Sukhadia, who hosted a Republic Day party, this evening showed the Chief Minister, Mr. D. Devaraj Urs, and the PCC President, Mr. K.H. Patil, round the half acre plot under wheat and told pressmen that he and Mrs. Sukhadia had raised the crop.

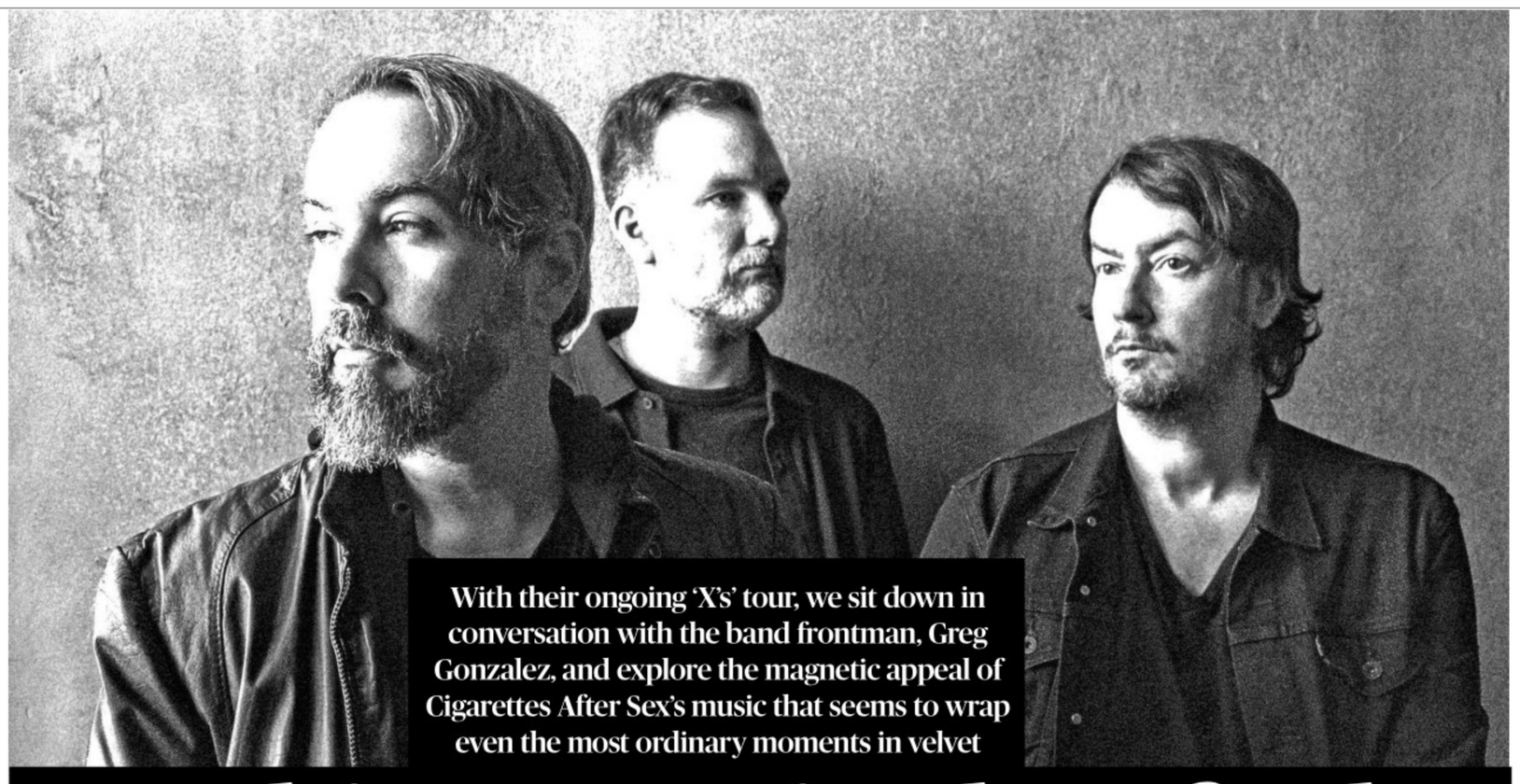
Mr. Sukhadia, who is keenly interested in agriculture, said this wheat was a rust resistant variety which should go to disprove the general theory that the Bangalore climate and soil were not suited to wheat.

He felt wheat could be raised as a second crop in the Bangalore region.

Bangalore Varsity Adopts Village for Social Service

Bangalore, Jan. 26: Hoody, a village about 15 km from here near Whitefield, was today adopted by the Bangalore University for social service.

The Governor, Mr. Mohanlal Sukhadia, who inaugurated the programme under the National Service scheme of the University described it as a significant function, specially appropriate on the Republic Day.



With their ongoing 'X's' tour, we sit down in conversation with the band frontman, Greg Gonzalez, and explore the magnetic appeal of Cigarettes After Sex's music that seems to wrap even the most ordinary moments in velvet

Making music that feels like a movie

Ayaan Paul Chowdhury

'My Life Is A Movie'. 'Goosebumps'. 'Levitate'. 'Make Out Jams'. These are but a few of the myriad mood-based Spotify playlists that American indie legends Cigarettes After Sex find their music a fitting part of.

Greg Gonzalez, the band's frontman and sultry voice, has long been a conjurer of their melancholic reveries, with every track oozing with their signature seductive pull that has spoken to the heart's deepest recesses for many.

His voice has often been described as androgynous, with a haunting smoothness to it, and remains the band's defining identity.

Determined to be part of something bigger than himself, Gonzalez founded Cigarettes After Sex in his home town in 2008, with his bandmates, bassist Randall Miller and drummer Jacob Tomsky.

Fast-forward four years, and their debut EP, *I.*, emerged from the unlikeliest of studios – a four-floor stairwell at the University of Texas at El Paso.

Cigarettes After Sex has since carved out a groundbreaking niche within the indie music landscape.

Their latest opus, *X's*, released last month, offers a fresh palette to their unmistakably dreamy sound – a lustrous blend of ambient pop, shoegaze, and the kind of languorous rock that feels like a smoky after-hours rendezvous.

This third studio effort continues their exploration of vulnerability but with a new texture that marries the sounds of alternating decades: '70s dance pop and '90s nostalgia.

India has long been a receptive audience to the band's moody serenades. From their debut at the Bacardi NH7 Weekender in Pune to their most recent set at Lollapalooza India in Mumbai, the connection has been electric.

Now, the much-anticipated *X's* tour is touring Delhi, Mumbai, and Bengaluru.

We sit down in conversation with Greg to unravel the thought behind producing *X's* and explore the magnetic appeal of their music that seems to wrap even the most ordinary moments in velvet.

Excerpts:

From what I have heard so far, X's seems bittersweet, and you have previously mentioned how it explores the highs and lows of a relationship. Was there a particular moment or memory you found most challenging to relive while encapsulating it in song?
It is always difficult for me to confront a memory, even if it's a sweet one, because a happy memory can feel sad later. You felt a certain way at a certain time, and then later on, things might have changed. So, that memory feels sad because all the dreams you had didn't come true.

There's a song called 'Dreams from Bunker Hill' that was hard to write. I finished it much later, after the romance had ended.

It felt really sad to talk about moving in together with this person and stuff like that for the first time. Everything was so happy when we first moved in.

That song used to make me cry a lot when we finished it; it still does when I play it, which makes me incredibly sad. But, you know, that's what it's supposed to do.

You have come a long way since your debut album, and Cigarettes After Sex has been evergreen. What elements do you believe are essential to achieving this timelessness that is quintessential to your music? How do you ensure each new album maintains that aesthetic while also exploring new territories?
It is strange that the band has stayed successful, but it's what I always envisioned.

I studied music and thought, why is Beethoven's 'Moonlight Sonata' still so powerful? There's a certain feeling to it that never gets old. It's so perfectly done, so simple, so melancholic, and emotional.

Sonic soundscape Greg Gonzales says he wants his music to to serve love and be romantic to the core. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

I wanted our music to be like that – simple, incredibly emotional, and melancholic, dealing with romance honestly.

But it should still be pop music, with verses and choruses that people want to sing along to. It shouldn't be obscure.

The songs are written to be classic, imitating those classic songs. The honesty about relationships and romance helps people feel something special, whether it helps them sleep, dance, sing, miss somebody, or share it with others. It's meant to serve love and be romantic to the core.

The band's name has always evoked a specific vibe and image. From spearheading the mood-based playlist movement on Spotify to producing a distinct brand of musical erotica, do you feel these perceptions of Cigarettes After Sex ever restrict the diversity of your music?
It doesn't seem like it has. Early on, record labels told us that if we changed our name, they would sign us.

They said the name would create roadblocks. And maybe it did, but it felt more honest to keep it. The name felt like a lightning strike, like a path had been revealed.

If I hadn't taken that path, it would have been disastrous, so I had to trust my instinct and say, "This seems interesting; it's a beautiful feeling and a beautiful statement."

I know it's a little jagged but in essence, it (Cigarettes After Sex) is actually a sweet thing, about sharing something intimate.

It could have been like *Sex Pistols*, which is a more vulgar name, but it didn't limit them. They were influential and important. So, I figured our name wouldn't limit us either.

You are also a film buff; how did your early exposure to cinema influence your approach to songwriting, particularly in creating music with such a dreamy and evocative quality?
I grew up with a big closet of VHS tapes because my dad worked in video distribution. We had a million movies, and I played music inspired by them. I wanted to make songs that sounded like those movies. I wanted listeners to hear a song and picture a movie in their heads. When a song creates a scene in your mind, it's one of my favourite things. I wanted Cigarettes After Sex to have that power.

All these pictures in your mind are what a film creates. Films inspired me to make music that feel like a movie. Over the years, I would watch films and think, this movie evokes a feeling I want to capture in song. This happens repeatedly with the movies I watch; I think, this film feels incredible – maybe I can write a song that captures this feeling. That's how film and music work together for me.

Have you ever considered dabbling in scoring or composing for movies?
I've thought about that. There are many great composers who were in rock bands first, like Danny Elfman, Johnny Greenwood, and Mark Mothersbaugh. But I thought I should do one better. I want to direct movies. So, if Cigarettes After Sex ends, I want to start directing movies and maybe do my own scores, along the lines of John Carpenter, perhaps.

What are you most looking forward to in your upcoming tours? Has the Indian audience particularly influenced your music or performances over the years?
India has long been a fan base with some of our most passionate fans. The level of passion for music in India is incredible. It's amazing to see the audience's electricity when they hear music in the right setting.

We've been trying to go to more cities for a long time. We've been to Pune, spent three nights in Mumbai. This is our fourth time, and now we can finally go to New Delhi and Bengaluru. It's exciting to finally play in these places.

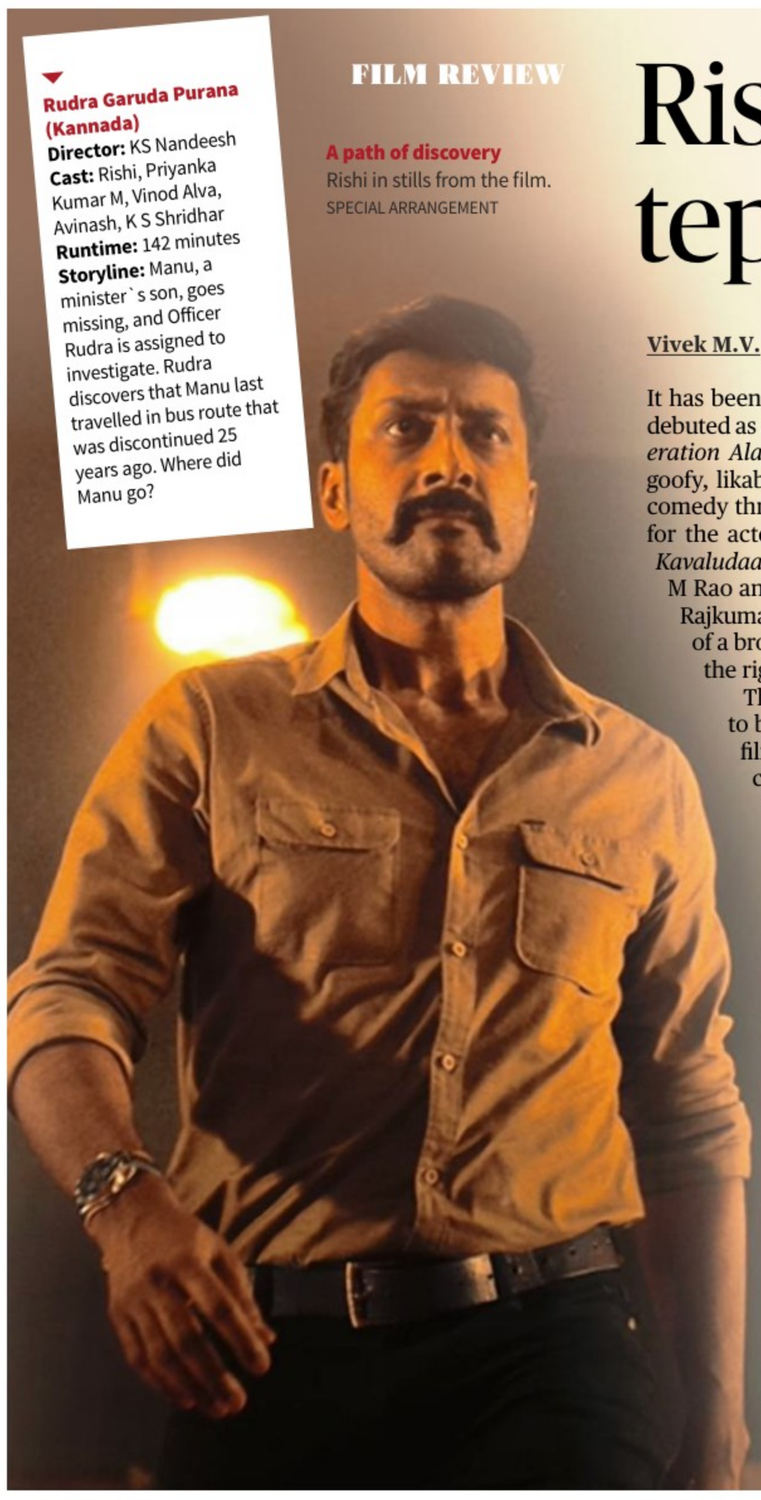
I'm looking forward to seeing new cities in India, experiencing their vibe, and feeling the fans' excitement. The level of excitement online has been incredible, so I'm really excited for it.

Cigarettes After Sex will be performing in Bengaluru on January 28 at Bharatiya Mall of Bengaluru. Tickets are sold out on BookMyShow.

FILM REVIEW

Rishi gives his all in this tepid thriller

Rudra Garuda Purana (Kannada)
Director: KS Nandeesh
Cast: Rishi, Priyanka Kumar M, Vinod Alva, Avinash, K S Shridhar
Runtime: 142 minutes
Storyline: Manu, a minister`s son, goes missing, and Officer Rudra is assigned to investigate. Rudra discovers that Manu last travelled in bus route that was discontinued 25 years ago. Where did Manu go?



A path of discovery Rishi in stills from the film. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Vivek M.V.

It has been seven years since Rishi debuted as a lead actor in Suni's *Operation Alamelamma*. He played a goofy, likable common man in the comedy thriller. It was a great year for the actor as he also starred in *Kavaludaari*, directed by Hemanth M Rao and produced by Puneeth Rajkumar. Rishi essayed the role of a brooding, upright cop with the right amount of restraint.

The stage was set for Rishi to be a dependable actor in films with unique concepts. However, since showing promise with the twin films, Rishi has not cracked a Kannada film that is thoroughly satisfying. *Sarvajanikarige Suvarnavaksha* and *Nodi Swamy Ivanu Irode Heege* were interesting premises undone by wobbly execution. Rishi's latest, *Rudhra Garuda Purana*, is another film in that category.

It feels like the actor is not sure how he wants to be seen on the big screen. Perhaps there is an intention to be the next big star, which is quite natural. He wants to shake off the tag of a 'promising actor' and announce his arrival. In *Rudhra Garuda Purana*, he plays Rudra, a police officer with a no-nonsense attitude. Director K S Nandeesh gives an elaborate build-up to his hero. There is a fight sequence with a predictable outcome and punchlines with little effect. Add to it a love story that adds nothing to the plot. A series of flat sequences results in a first half that takes a while to get going.

Once the core idea kicks off, the film takes an intriguing turn. Manu, the son of an MLA, goes missing, and Rudra is tasked to investigate the case unofficially to avoid media scrutiny. Manu was last seen in on a local bus route that was officially discontinued 25 years ago.

A couple of similar surprises keep us curious about the proceedings, but one good guess is what is required to predict the plot's biggest secret. And when the film unravels its mystery, there is no shock value as the scenes only confirm our assumptions. The fact that the big reveal happens on the back of a long and convoluted screenplay pulls the film further down.

Rudhra Garuda Purana needed a plot with taut writing and clever deceptions. It ends up as a middling film with few high points. It is Rishi's best Kannada film since *Kavaludaari*, yet his efforts are not utilised to form a solid investigative thriller. It is not like his acting chops have been wasted, as he has made impressive outings in the Telugu series *Shaitan* (2023) and the recent Nandamuri Balakrishna film *Daaku Maharaj*. It is just that the actor has not featured in a well-rounded Kannada film since *Kavaludaari*.

Rudra Garuda Purana is currently running in theatres

CITYBEATS

Being rooted

ONGOING
Be Luru, a newly-opened restaurant's name is a tribute to Bengaluru.
The menu is designed to promote the culinary heritage of Karnataka. There are signature dishes like donne biryani, nati koli saaru, ragi mudde and steamed rice. With this there are also innovative dishes such as mutton kofta, murraya magic and more.
At Be Luru, Sheshadripuram, Bengaluru.

Moment of cheers

FEBRUARY 1, 2
The fifth edition of India Cocktail Week (ICW), a celebration of craft cocktails, live music and culinary delights will be held in Bengaluru.
There will be a mix of signature cocktails, innovative mixology and immersive experiences from leading global to home-grown brands and crafted drinks. The music line up will be include performances by Anyasa, Kampai & Friends, Gndhi, Santana and more. *At Bhartiya Mall.*

A 'grand' wedding in the name of Mantra Mangalya at Kuppalli draws flak

A wedding being held on the premises of Rashtrakavi Kuvempu Trust at Kuppalli. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

An apparently ostentatious wedding held on Friday on the premises of Rashtrakavi Kuvempu Trust at Kuppalli in Tirthahalli, following the rituals of Mantra Mangalya - a wedding ceremony designed and propagated by the late Kannada poet Kuvempu to simplify weddings -- has attracted the wrath of many readers of the writer.

The residents of Bengaluru, who are native to Koppa taluk in Chikkamagaluru, conducted the wedding at the amphitheatre in front of Hemangana, an auditorium at Kuppalli. They decorated the surrounding area with lights and held a music programme, besides offering dinner to the guests.

A local resident recorded a video of the gathering and lighting arrangements. The video clip has gone viral on social media platforms.

He is seen questioning if this is the way to conduct Mantra Mangalya propagated by Kuvempu. Reacting to the video clip, many people have raised objections to the way the event was organised.

They argued that the organisers had not followed the spirit of Kuvempu's Mantra Mangalya. Such events should not be allowed in Kuppalli, many felt.

When *The Hindu* contacted Kadidal Prakash, secretary of the trust, he said: "Normally, Mantra Mangalya weddings are held inside Hemangana auditorium. However, this family requested us to hold the event in the evening at the amphitheatre in open air. We presumed that as they had volunteered to do the Mantra Mangalya wedding, they would follow Kuvempu's objectives and keep it simple. This looked like a grand event, not in tune with the basic objective of Mantra Mangalya."

Mr. Prakash said that the gathering was by and large within the limit of 200 people.

However, the event "looked grand." "From now onwards, we will not allow any weddings in the evening and ensure the guests adhere to the basic objective of a simple wedding," he stated.

Kuvempu, Jnanpith awardee, is a native of Kuppalli. He propagated simple marriage by holding his son, also a noted writer, Poornachandra Tejaswi's marriage with R. Rajeshwari at a farmhouse in Chikkamagaluru district on November 27, 1966. There was no place for Sanskrit mantras and rituals. The poet prepared a text that served as a wedding oath for the bride and groom. The text was later called Mantra Mangalya.

Over the years many people, particularly those who have read Kuvempu and Tejaswi's literature, have followed this custom.

Centre trying to take over universities: Telangana CM

Revanth warns of protests if Centre does not withdraw its draft UGC regulations on selection of Vice-Chancellors; says Centre's move to usurp States' powers is tantamount to a 'cultural attack'

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to refrain from the proposed amendments to University Grants Commission (UGC) regulations on the selection and appointment of Vice-Chancellors of universities, describing the move as an attack on the Constitution.

The Chief Minister expressed concern that the Centre was trying to take over the powers to run universities from the purview of States, and saw a conspiracy in the move. "The Centre's plan to take over universities' administration can result in making them platforms for false propaganda by a few individuals," he said.

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy attending the Republic Day event in Hyderabad on Sunday. PTI

The comments come in the light of dissent expressed by non-BJP State governments on the draft regulations by the UGC on the selection of Vice-Chancellors to universities. The States contend that the regulations are in violation of federal principles of the Constitution and want them withdrawn.

Unveiling the statue of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar on the B.R. Ambedkar Open University campus, Mr. Reddy said the proposed changes in the UGC regulations were tantamount to a "cultural attack" on the States leading to unnecessary controversies. "The Centre's moves to usurp the States' powers will be seen as an attack on them. We are not prepared to lose our rights," he said, demanding that the Centre withdraw its move failing which the State would stage protests if need be.

He said the States would be reduced to "tax collection organisations" if their powers were taken over by the Centre gradually. "Unfortunately, the country is witnessing a debate on the protection of the Constitution," he said, opposing the move to privatise varsities.

Tiger attacks forest staffer in Wayanad district

The Hindu Bureau
KOZHIKODE

A tiger attacked one of the members of the Rapid Response Team (RRT) deployed to capture the animal at Pancharakolly hamlet in Wayanad district of Kerala on Sunday.

The RRT of the State Forest and Wildlife Department was deployed in the village near Mananthavady after the tiger killed a tribal woman on Friday, while she was harvesting coffee cherries at an estate.

A forest official said RRT member Jayasurya narrowly escaped serious injury as he used a protective shield when the tiger lunged at the team. He sustained minor injuries to his hand and was hospitalised.

Declared man-eater

Following Sunday's attack, Forest Minister A.K. Saseendran said the tiger would be declared a man-eater and shot dead.

After a high-level meeting at the Wayanad Collectorate, the Minister said: "The same animal has attacked humans more than once. We have to treat it as a man-eater."

100 cameras soon

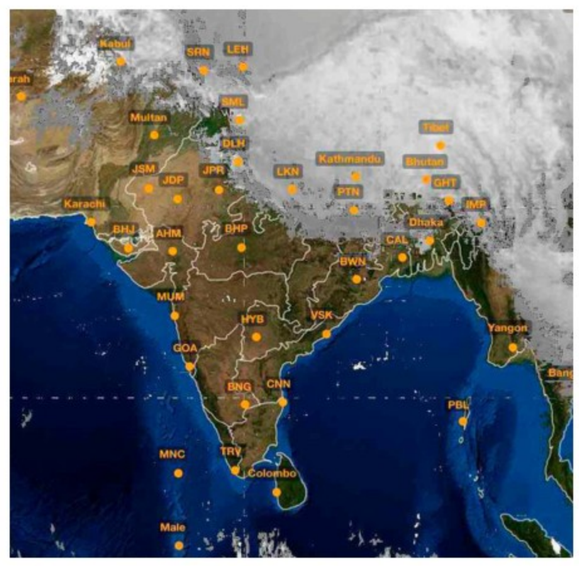
Unconfirmed reports said that when the tiger attacked Jayasurya, another team member opened fire, potentially injuring the predator. Currently, eight teams, each comprising 10 officials, are combing the area to capture the tiger.

The Minister said there had been several instances of people losing their lives in animal attacks in the State. The existing laws on wildlife need to be changed to overcome this situationprevent deaths in animal attacks.

"Patrolling by forest and police officials will be strengthened in the areas adjacent to forest to observe the normal path of wild animals," the Minister added. The meeting also decided to set up more AI surveillance cameras in areas prone to wildlife attacks, within February 1. A total of 100 such cameras will be set up in Wayanad.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.00 HRS)

Forecast for Monday: Dense fog conditions very likely in isolated pockets of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Odisha, Assam & Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram & Tripura. Cold wave conditions very likely in isolated pockets of Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan.

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	25.0	12.0	Kozhikode	—	34.6	24.6
Ahmedabad	—	28.7	16.0	Kurnool	—	35.3	17.2
Aizawl	—	25.1	8.4	Lucknow	—	24.5	8.6
Allahabad	—	25.7	7.3	Madurai	—	32.5	20.7
Bengaluru	—	31.0	14.9	Mangaluru	—	34.4	20.4
Bhopal	—	25.4	8.2	Mumbai	—	32.2	22.0
Bhubaneswar	—	28.7	20.5	Mysuru	—	31.9	17.0
Chandigarh	—	23.2	7.2	New Delhi	—	23.6	7.2
Chennai	—	30.0	21.6	Patna	—	24.4	12.2
Coimbatore	—	33.0	20.0	Port Blair	—	30.4	24.1
Dehradun	—	24.3	7.2	Puducherry	—	—	21.3
Gangtok	1.0	15.6	6.1	Pune	—	34.1	13.3
Goa	—	—	—	Raipur	—	13.3	17.0
Guwahati	—	25.3	11.4	Ranchi	—	24.0	8.8
Hubballi	—	34.0	16.0	Shillong	—	16.7	5.0
Hyderabad	—	31.9	17.2	Shimla	—	19.8	8.0
Imphal	—	23.4	6.6	Srinagar	—	14.1	-5.6
Jaipur	—	26.2	8.0	Thiruvananthapuram	—	32.6	25.1
Kochi	—	31.2	25.0	Tiruchi	—	30.1	20.0
Kohima	—	18.6	—	Vijayawada	—	30.8	18.8
Kolkata	—	26.2	15.0	Visakhapatnam	—	29.5	19.2

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.18	..60	53	... 125	...122	
Bengaluru	.12	..18	..8	 49	...116	
Chennai	...6	7	36	 60	75	
Delhi	.15	..44	34	... 290	...178	
Hyderabad	...5	110	..5	... 114	...141	
Kolkata	...5	..56	52	..... —	...190	
Lucknow	.12	..45	55	... 212	...144	
Mumbai	.37	..61	67	... 272	...206	
Pune	..—	..80	36	... 239	...178	
Visakhapatnam	...9	..84	14	... 136	...153	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Byrnihat, Meghalaya recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 341 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Madikeri, Karnataka recorded a healthy AQI score of 23.

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

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NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tender No.	Material Description	Due date
242513 005929	Design, Manufacture, Testing, Supply, Supervision of installation & Commissioning of Distributed Control System (DCS) and its accessories for Boiler #8 relating to RSPS-2 Project at TNPL Unit - I	12.02.2025

Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL Website & NIC Portal only. Detailed Terms & conditions are available in the tender document which can be downloaded from websites : www.tnpl.com / https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app
DIPR/300/Tender/2025 — *TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper*

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. 57/2024/SBC Dated: 21.01.2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders through IREPS only for supply of following items:

Tender No.	Description in Brief
L8246681	Advanced Phaco-Emulsification Machine with CAMC Condition. (Qty: 1 No.)

Last date for Submission/Tender Due on: Upto 10:30 Hrs. on 17.02.2025
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Materials Manager, Bengaluru
PUB/732/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2024-25
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

BANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly Owned Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
CIN-U04010KA2002SGC030438
SHORT TERM e-AUCTION TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-Procurement Platform)
BESCOM invites auctions through e-auction platform from eligible Bidders **for e-Auction of IT Scrap materials available at DC, Bengaluru.**
Auction No. BESCOM/2024-25/AUCTION 27. **Name of the material:** IT Hardware. **Pre-Bid Meeting:** 29.01.2025, 11.00 AM at the Office of GM-IT, BESCOM 5th Floor, Belaku Bhavana, Corporate Office, K.R Circle, Bangalore-560001. **Date of Inspection of IT Hardware:** 28.01.2025 to 31.01.2025 from 10.00 AM to 5.00 PM. **Due date for submission/ upload of the eligibility criteria along with necessary EMD and relevant Documents:** 10.02.2025, 4.00 PM. **Live Auction Bidding:** 15.02.2025 from 10.30 AM. to 1.30 PM.
Issue of Bid Documents from: **27.01.2025.** Bid documents can be downloaded through the KPP portal from the website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**. Aspiring Bidders need to register in the portal. Further bidders can take the assistance of the help desk at +91-8046010000 +91-8068948777.
For Electricity related complaints call: 1912
Download BESCOM Mithra Mobile APP
Sd/-
General Manager, (ICT&MIS), BESCOM,
5th Floor, Belaku Bhavana.

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No.CE(E)/TRZ/EE(C)-3/AEE(C)-1/2024-25/16635-38 Date: 23.01.2025
BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Portal Only)
KPTCL invites Tenders for Providing jelly spreading to 66kV bay side, Repairs and improvement works to existing control cable duct tray, Repairs and improvement works to Oil sump tank to arresting the water seepage and other allied works at 220/66/11kV Receiving station, T.K Halli. **Est. Cost (Excl. GST) :** Rs. 33,04,825.37
The detailed notification regarding the subject tenders can be got by logging on to **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink 'E Procurement KPTCL' or to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **28.01.2025.**
Sd/- Chief Engineer (Ele.),
Transmission Zone, KPTCL,
Anandrao Circle, Bengaluru -560009

KARNATAKA URBAN WATER SUPPLY AND DRAINAGE BOARD
'JAL BHAVAN', No. 6, 1st Stage, 1st Phase, BTM Layout
Bannerghatta Main Road, Bengaluru - 560 029
Ph : 080 - 4110 6508
e-mail:cekwbbng@gmail.com Website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in
TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPPP only)
No. KWB/TEC/CE(B)/CN HALLI AMRUT 2.0/1058/2024-25 Dtd: 23.01.2025
Name of the work : Tender for "Improvements of Water Supply System to Chikkanayakanahalli town with Hemavathi canal as source under AMRUT 2.0 including Operation & Maintenance for a period of 5 years (including 1-year DLP) through design, build, operation and transfer (DBOT) mode."
Indent No.: KUWSDB/2024-25/WS/WORK_INDENT 299
For further details may be obtained through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**
DIPR/CP/4556/AKAR/2024-25
Sd/- CHIEF ENGINEER (B),
KUWS & D BOARD, Bengaluru

UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES BENGALURU
Estate Office, GKVK, Bengaluru-560 065.
No. EO/SPO/kppp/17/2024-25 Date: 23-01-2025
TENDER NOTIFICATION
(kpp Portal only)
The University of Agricultural Sciences, Bengaluru has invited Tender in the prescribed form as per the Standard tender document KG-1, & KG-2, from the reputed firms for the procurement of Equipment's.
Blank Tender Documents can be downloaded from **kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Last date and time for uploading the tender on **06-02-2025 up to 4.00 p.m.** The Technical bid will be opened on **08-02-2025 at 10.30 a.m.** The Financial bid will be opened on **12-02-2025 at 10.30 a.m.** in the Tender **Committee room of Estate Office.** Further details can be had from the office of the undersigned during working hours and also refer UAS Website: **www.uasbangalore.edu.in. Help Desk 91-80460 10000, +91-80689 48777 support@eprochelpdesk.com.** The University reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reasons.
DIPR/CP/RO/4588/2024-25
Sd/-
ESTATE OFFICER

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, MEDHA B Varghese, D/o Shaji Varghese, R/o #310, Ind–win Ecstasy Apartments, Garvebhavi Palya Road, 9th Main, Hongasandra, Bangalore – 560068, have changed my name to MEDHA BRIGITTE VARGHESE for all future purposes, vide affidavit dated 08–Jan–2025 sworn before Notary Deepa M, Bangalore.

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, ILIAZ Pasha Peer Sab, S/O: Peer Sab, R/O: 706/67, 30th A Cross, Tilak Nagar, Jayanagar, Bengaluru–560041, Have Changed My Name To Ilyas Pasha. Vide Affidavit On 23/01/25.

I, SHABEEN Taj, D/O: Aziz Pasha, R/O: 706/67, 30th A Cross, Tilak Nagar, Jayanagar, Bengaluru–560041, Have Changed My Name To Shabreen Taj. Vide Affidavit On 23/01/25.

LEGAL NOTICE

BEFORE THE HON'BLE DISTRICT COURT, THRISSUR - IV
O.P (Probation) No. 148 of 2023
PETITIONER : Radhika Menon,
aged 48 years, D/o K.S Menon @ Konanath Sivanunni Menon, Konanath House, Chelakkodu P.O Thrissur-680586.
Vs
RESPONDENT : Sameer Menon,
aged 45 years, S/o. K.S Menon, 523, Sameer Villa, 5th Main Road, Indiranagar 2nd Stage, Bangalore-560038.
NOTICE
Whereas the petitioner filed the above numbered case O.P (Probation) No. 148/2023, to probate the will and codicil executed by Late K.S Menon @ Konanath Sivanunni Menon effecting throughout the State of Kerala in favour of petitioner. Now the above numbered case posted to **5.2.2025** before the Hon'ble District Court IV, Thrissur, for appearance of the respondent in person or through any authorized person or through their counsel engaged if any.
Take notice that if the respondent above named fail to appear before the Hon'ble District Court IV, Thrissur on that day at 11.00 am either in person or through his pleader, the court shall set you exparty and decide the matter in your absence.
Dated this the 08th day of February, 2024.
SREEKANTH S. NAIR
Counsel for the Petitioner
Room No. 19, 4th Floor, Near High Court, Empire Building, Ernakulam - 682 018.
K-3453/1999, 9895068268

PUBLIC NOTICE

PROPERTY DOCUMENT LOST
This is to information to General public that may client St. Fayaz Pasha S/O Nazir Ahamad, Aged about 38 years, Ward No. 02. K.K. Pete, Sidlaghatta Town and Taluk Chikaballapura Dist. Mobil No.8123960115. he Owner of the Below said Property while Sale deed for taken certified copy have lost following Document of property prettying to below Mentioned house property Situated at Ward No.2, Patelara Bidi, K.M.F 24 and PID No. 36-506-4 Site No.4363/A-1 3410/A/2 East-west, 30 feet 9.144018 meters and North- South 15 feet 4.57209 meters total 41.788 sq.feet had published the factum of lost of her Original Regd Sale Deed, dated 20.03.2023, Executed By 1. Sri. Nazeer Ahamad S/o Gaphar Kaan, Aged about 70 years. 2. Sri. S. Babajan S/o Nazeer Ahamad Aged about 48 years. 3. Smt. Shahin Taj W/O N. Babajan Age about 43 years. 4. Jigunu S/o Babajan Age about 23 years. 5.Sayida B D/o Babajan Age about 21 years. 6. Ateeya Pirdos D/o Babajan Age about 19 years. 7. Ayisha D/o Babajan Age about 14 years. Reg. as Book No. 2022-23, dated 20-03-2023, in Register before of the sub register at Sidlaghatta taluk, The documents Have been Issued By Sub Register at Sidlaghatta Town and Taluk, Chikkaballapur Dist, police complaint have been filed with regard to loss of the above said Document vide complaint in NCR NO.1308778/2024, dated 28/10/2024, and complaint dated 28/10/2024, by respective person, if anybody finds these Document please inform within 7 Days in below mentioned Address.
Krishnamurthy M.A.LL.B,
Advocate
Shidlagatta

FORM NO. 22 AND 18
General Notice in respect of Interlocutary Application and Notice for appearance in Appeals Order 41 Rule 14 CPC, and Rules 1, 2, 4 and11 of Chapter IV Karnataka High Court Rules
IN THE HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA AT BENGALURU
MFA No.715/ 2018 (SFC-)
Appellants:
1. SMT. ARUNDATHI ASHOK RAO,
aged About 50 Years, W/o Sri. Ashok Rao and D/O Late Smt. Hena Ganguly, R/at # 101, RIO Grande, 1st Block, Brunton Road, Bengaluru-560025.
By Sri. G.R. ANANTHARAM, ADV.
Vs
Respondents:
1.KARNATAKA STATE FINANCIAL CORPORATION
having Its HEAD OFFICE At No.1/1, Thimmaiah Road, Near Contonment Railway Station, Bangalore.
BRANCH OFFICE At Somayaji Building, Bunts Hostel Road, Mangaluru.
Represented By Its Branch Manager And Others
Appeal From the Judgement/Award/ Order passed on dated 07.03.2017 in MISC. CASE No.37/2014 on the file of the III ADDITIONAL DISTRICT AND SESSIONS JUDGE, D.K. MANGALORE, IA NO.1/2018 FOR CD OF 287 DAYS IN FILING.
To: RESPONDENT NO.3
3. SRI.KAUSHIK MUKHARJI,
Aged About 49 Years, S/o Sri.Haridas Mukherjee Director,
VFM Systems And Services Pvt. Ltd., L7, Sector XI, 10th Main, Jeevan Bheema Nagar, HAL, New Thippa sandra, III Stage, Bengaluru-560075.
Whereas the aforementioned Appeal preferred has been registered by this Court.
NOTICE IS HEREBY given to you to appear in this Court in person Or through an Advocate duly instructed or through some one authorised by law to act for you in this case on **20/02/2025 at 10.30 a.m.,** in case you intend to contest the appeal. If you fail so to appear, the appeal will be dealt with, heard and decided in your absence,
Given under my hand and the seal of this Court On the 08th DAY OF JANUARY 2025.
By order of the Court
SD/-
Date:18/01/25 ASSISTANT REGISTRAR

THE HINDU GROUP
ACES SPORTS QUIZ
1. At which ePrix Formula E race did Indian racer Jehan Daruvala finish ninth, marking his first points of the season in 2024?
2. The first Indian to win a medal at 3 consecutive Paralympics competed in which event?
3. In which sport did India's men's and women's teams create history by winning team gold medals at the 45th International Olympiad in Budapest?

Scan the QR code or visit **sstar.news/SSAA2025AQ** to take part in the quiz and vote for your favourite stars. Top 3 winners every day will win exciting gift vouchers*.
*T&C apply.
Answer to yesterday's quiz:
1. Delhi
2. Goalkeeper
3. Shot put
Yesterday's Winners:
1. V. Srikanth, Chennai
2. Niranjan. P, Bengaluru
3. Ramu Reddy, Hyderabad
Amul Presents SPORTSTAR ACES 2025 INDIA TRIUMPHS
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Republican journey

The President of India should stay clear of partisan political discourse

In her customary address to the nation on the eve of the 76th Republic Day, the President of India, Droupadi Murmu, said that the Constitution has become a living document due to the millennia-old civic virtues of the country. Ms. Murmu also paid tribute to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, who chaired the Drafting Committee, and other members of the Constituent Assembly, who created a document that would guide the country's progress. Connecting India's journey as a modern Republic to its heritage, the President said the constitutional values of justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity have always been a part of India's civilisation. Sceptics who doubted India's prospects at the time of Independence have been proven wrong due to these inherent strengths of the country. The President highlighted the representative character of the Constituent Assembly, whose members were drawn from every part of, and communities in, the country, including 15 women. While women's equality was at that time only a distant ideal in much of the world, Indian women were contributing to shaping the nation's destiny, she noted. Reflecting on the progress over 75 years, Ms. Murmu commended the Union government's efforts to move past the relics of the colonial era, particularly the "audacity of vision" of replacing colonial-era criminal laws with three new laws rooted in Indian traditions of jurisprudence.

The President strongly advocated the controversial proposal for simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies as a means to redefine good governance. The draft Bill on simultaneous elections, introduced by the Narendra Modi government, is under review by a joint committee of Parliament. The President waded into the debate with the argument that synchronised elections would promote consistency in governance, prevent policy paralysis, mitigate resource diversion, and reduce financial burdens. It is a contentious topic and Opposition parties that are a part of the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance have opposed the plan on the ground that it violates the basic structure of the Constitution and undermines federalism. Not surprisingly, Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge has alleged that there is a "tendency" to impose a "One Nation, One Party" agenda by undermining the Opposition. The President could have stayed clear of this topic. The government will need to tread carefully to ensure that the First Citizen is not drawn into what is essentially a partisan political debate. Unity without uniformity is key to a more perfect union. And Republic Day is as good as any other day to reiterate that.

India with Indonesia

The two Asian nations must now build on their historic ties

Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto's visit to India, as chief guest at the Republic Day parade, was replete with the symbolism of historically important ties between the two countries, albeit short on concrete outcomes. India and Indonesia's ancient ties, that rest on trade and travel to the spread of an adapted form of Javanese Hinduism, as well as the use of Vedic scriptures and Sanskrit works, have given the two countries a formidable engagement. In the previous century, it was their solidarity against imperialism, which led to independent India's support to Indonesian leaders fighting Dutch colonialism, with Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru banning Dutch overflights and sending Indian planes to evacuate the Indonesian Prime Minister and Vice President – in an article in *The Hindu* on January 5, 1950, Indonesia's first President, Sukarno, wrote about Indonesia's gratitude. Next, India and Indonesia were united by their aversion to great power politics. They supported the creation of the non-aligned movement (NAM), beginning with the Bandung Conference. Ties were also forged by their innate similarities as two Asian nations that dominated South Asia and South-East Asia by size. Both were countries where large religious majorities practised tolerance towards sizable minorities, as well as economic powerhouses committed to an equitable development of their large populations. In the recent past, ties have been spurred by common concerns over western sanctions after the start of the Ukraine war, U.S.-China rivalry and China's aggression in the Indo-Pacific, worries over "food, fertilizer and fuel" security and a weakening multilateral order. Their efforts to forge consensus at the G-20 summits in Bali (2022) and Delhi (2023), will now be put to further use as Indonesia has joined BRICS. In that sense, Mr. Subianto's visit, in the 75th year of bilateral ties, is a full circle: from Bandung to an enlarged BRICS.

Given the historical, strategic and geopolitical importance of relations, the announcements were more modest than expected. There were five MoUs in health, traditional medicine, maritime security, digital development and cultural cooperation and the joint statement referred to strengthening defence cooperation. However, no specific progress was announced on the sale of India's Brahmos missile, or on the Sabang port project and Aceh-Andamans connectivity initiatives. The joint statement was also pointedly non-committal on their world view, despite their similar positions on recent geopolitical conflicts, and initiatives to engage the Trump administration and China. India's Republic Day invitation and Mr. Subianto's visit, fresh in his presidential term, are, however, an important statement for both capitals to make. There is the impetus for the two Asian powers to forge the next phase in their ties.

Genocide and the world's averted gaze

Priyanjali Malik

writes on international affairs, security and defence, with a special focus on nuclear politics

Eighty years ago, on January 27, 1945, Soviet soldiers stumbled upon the barbed wire surrounding Auschwitz-Birkenau. Inside they found 8,000 emaciated prisoners, along with 44,000 pairs of shoes, piles of spectacles, and mounds of cooking utensils. This was all that remained of the approximately 1.1 million people, mainly European Jews, who were killed at Auschwitz. As the retreating Nazis destroyed their meticulous records along with much evidence of the brutally efficient killing operation, a precise figure is not available. This year, on the anniversary of the liberation, the few remaining survivors and world leaders have been invited to remember the dead and to renew the international community's pledge of never again allowing genocide to take place.

A stain in human history

As the Genocide Convention of 1948 recognises, the crime of genocide – 'acts committed with the intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group' – has stained human history down the ages. The United Nations Secretary-General, António Guterres, said on December 9, 2020, on the international day to commemorate victims of genocide, 'Genocide always has multiple clear warning signs.'

The Soviet soldiers who liberated Auschwitz later said they were wholly unprepared for what they found. However, while the industrial scale of the killing that would eventually claim six million Jewish lives, in addition to tens of thousands of Roma, Sinti, and other people deemed inferior or political opponents, was not known in its entirety, the Allies were not entirely unaware.

On assuming power in 1933, the Nazis codified the persecution of Jews in hundreds of laws, culminating in the Nuremberg Laws of 1935 that took away German citizenship from Jews and others considered 'non Aryan'. Yet, when those Jews who could overcome restrictive German emigration laws tried to leave (until 1941, when Germany forbade Jewish emigration), they encountered bureaucratic obstacles, xenophobia and antisemitism.

Following the 1929 Stock Market Crash, the United States tightened already restrictive immigration quotas. The United Kingdom required those entering until 1938 to be self-supporting or sponsored; after the Anschluss it introduced a visa system. Neither made provisions for refugees. After 1938, Britain also restricted Jewish immigration into Palestine, then a British mandate. Some Jews moved to neighbouring European countries, only to be caught in Hitler's net as German tanks rolled over Europe. France, Belgium and the Netherlands were particularly assiduous in following Nazi orders to round up Jews for concentration camps.

As world leaders gather at Auschwitz, they must ponder over why 'never again' continues to be breached

The reality of 'Never again'

The Allies responded to the growing refugee problem by gathering at Evian in July 1938; apart from sympathetic statements, the 32 delegates offered little else. By the time the U.K. and the United States met at the Bermuda Conference of April 1943, reports of mass Jewish killings were unambiguous. The World Jewish Congress had submitted a report outlining Hitler's plans that Jews, 'after deportation and concentration in the East, be at one blow exterminated' (Riegner telegram, December 1942). The Polish Government-in-Exile in London published a pamphlet in December 1942 titled 'The Mass Extermination of Jews in German Occupied Poland.' Escapees from the concentration camps brought their own harrowing stories. The evidence for genocide was mounting, but the Allies would not, or could not, look too closely.

Never again, they declared in 1945. And yet, between 1975 and 1979, the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia are estimated to have killed over two million people by execution, starvation, disease and exhaustion as they sought to recreate Cambodian society in some communist ideal. As refugees fled to neighbouring countries and a new regime was installed in Phnom Penh after Vietnam's invasion, the international community's responses were conditioned by Cold War calculations: China and the West supported the fleeing Khmer Rouge while Vietnam and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) supported the newly installed communist government.

Never again. And yet, in Rwanda, in 1994, between 8,00,000 to 10,00,000 people, mostly minority Tutsi with some moderate Hutu, were murdered over 100 days while UN peacekeepers watched helplessly. In July 1995, 8,000 Bosnian Muslim men and boys were herded from a UN compound in Srebrenica – a place declared a safe zone (it is inescapable that safe zones were also created to prevent refugees flooding out of the former Yugoslavia) – and executed, as part of a careful campaign of ethnic cleansing. The Dutch UN commander requested reinforcements from both the UN and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, which never arrived. It was the culmination of three years of indecision by Europe and America on how to respond. This year is the 30th anniversary of Srebrenica (July 11).

Never again. Less than a decade later, violence broke out in Darfur, Sudan. Approximately 2,00,000 people were killed in 2003-05 in what the International Criminal Court (ICC) and some states have recognised as genocide. The violence in Sudan continues and there are renewed fears of genocide occurring now while the international community's attention is focussed on Ukraine and Gaza.

In Gaza

Then there is Gaza. As world leaders gather at Auschwitz on January 27 to commemorate the 80th anniversary of its liberation, Gazans will attempt returning to the rubble of their homes. Some will be sifting through the debris to locate the remains of family still buried underneath, part of the 10,000 estimated to be missing. The International Court of Justice is examining whether Israel is guilty of genocide under a case brought by South Africa. The ICC has issued arrest warrants for the Israel Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, and the former Israel Defence Minister, Yoav Gallant, for war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in Gaza in response to Hamas' October 7, 2023 attacks. There are arrest warrants for Hamas leaders too.

And, yet, America's and western Europe's response was to criticise the ICC, expressing outrage that there should be any semblance of equivalence in the arrest warrants for the leaders of Hamas and Israel. In some perversion of international norms, there seems to be an acceptance of a hierarchy of suffering. Arms have continued to flow to Israel, even as the death toll in Gaza crosses 47,000, mostly women and children. The UN estimates that 92% of all homes have been destroyed, health-care infrastructure and 87% of schools destroyed, and entire populations forcibly displaced multiple times. All this happened while Gaza was under siege, the foreign press was barred from entering, and the world acquiesced in looking away.

Israel has a right to defend itself, and Hamas' actions in October 2023 are completely indefensible. Yet, when does self-defence cross over into genocide? Where is that line? Arguably, that line is where we avert our gaze.

A checklist for the Dhruv helicopter investigation

Air Vice Marshal Manmohan Bahadur (retired)

is former Additional Director General, Centre for Air Power Studies

The fatal accident on January 5, 2025, where an Advanced Light Helicopter, Dhruv, of the Indian Coast Guard, had a fatal accident, has triggered the grounding of what is the workhorse of the country's armed forces. In aviation, accidents happen. But this does not reduce the gravity of the flight safety issues that India's flagship helicopter programme faces; flagship, because it is tailor-made for India's demanding operating conditions .

This writer was first associated with the project in 1988 when it was in the mock-up stage and engineering drawings were being converted to real parts which were being fused in the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) hangar. Those were heady days as we, the test aircrew, reviewed the prototype coming up adjacent. To view one's recommendations bear fruition was pure bliss. This writer moved on for a staff course abroad and one's satisfaction knew no bounds when he read in the foreign press about its first flight on August 20, 1992. That the project had its fair share and more of problems is well documented but the initial decade of its operational service was, to put it mildly, very challenging.

As this writer had the unpleasant task of being the presiding officer of the court of inquiry of the first fatal Dhruv crash (in 2007) and later as Assistant Chief of Air Staff at Air Headquarters looking after helicopter operations, here are a few suggestions for the decision makers.

Search for the reason

The world over, new aircraft face problems in the induction phase. The Dhruv has had its own long list – from serious ones such as premature main gear box withdrawals and cabin vibrations to operational irritants such as rainwater leaks in the cabin.

There has also been the poor supply of spares and the exasperatingly long overhaul times whenever a machine entered an HAL hangar for maintenance. Though these have been, hopefully, addressed over time to some extent, a new and worrying problem of flight controllability has emerged. After each such accident, short and long-term fixes have been made to keep the Dhruv flying. The fact that three weeks (and counting) have passed and the Dhruv has still not been cleared to fly, shows that something more serious has happened, and/or the cause has not yet been determined. It is no shame to keep the machine grounded till the root cause is found and a permanent fix implemented; the Boeing 737 MAX remained grounded for almost two years till its flight control problem was resolved.

The investigation of the Coast Guard ALH accident could be an inflexion point in India's helicopter programme

Involve domain specialists

The composition of a court of inquiry in India, even where such a basic characteristic such as flight controllability has been affected, is still no different than a 'normal' accident inquiry. Thus, as in the media, HAL (which could be blameworthy), the Centre for Military Airworthiness and Certification, or CEMILAC (the certification agency which could be blameworthy too), and the Coast Guard are the main investigators in the January 5 accident. Considering that the Coast Guard mishap is, at a minimum, the sixth accident involving the loss of flying control, the problem should, logically, have been found by now.

Since this has been a repetitive problem, should not there be a *de novo* look at the design issues for studying stresses, the metallurgy used and the fabrication process of flight critical components? Thus, a fresh fault analysis is necessary by co-opting outside specialists, say from academia or any other relevant field, to ferret out the root cause. Having an independent committee to holistically look at the Dhruv programme would be ideal.

Where rectification action is required from HAL, the speed of the implementation of recommendations leaves a lot to be desired. In the fatal accident of 2007, referred to earlier, our recommendation for the institution of measures to warn a pilot of an impending 'flight control saturation' situation took the better part of a decade. One understands that even the fitting of the new stainless steel control rods – after an investigation of the earlier flight control-linked accidents – is still an ongoing process.

Apportioning of responsibility

HAL is the primary organisation for the production of airworthy assets. While design is frozen earlier, it is the quality of production that needs monitoring with a hawk eye too. CEMILAC's responsibility is to ensure both – the soundness of design and production quality control. These two organisations too must be held responsible for the proper discharge of their duties since the combat fleet of the nation and its security posture get affected. To aid CEMILAC in the discharge of its task, having flight test crew on its rolls could result in an element of greater inquiry.

One needs to remember that the Prachand (Light Combat Helicopter), which is planned as the mainstay of the attack helicopter fleet , has also been affected as its transmission system is the same as the Dhruv's. We have the Light Utility Helicopter in its final flight-testing phase and the Indian Multi Role Helicopter, a 13-tonne heavy machine with greater complexities, is in the offing. The investigation of the Coast Guard accident could, thus, be an inflexion point in the journey of India's helicopter programmes. In the midst of the *aatmanirbharta* thrust, which is laudable, and other pressures, the only element driving decision making should be professionalism.

Precious lives and the standing of India's nascent helicopter industry are at stake.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Indonesia and India ties

It is of significance that on India's very first Republic Day celebrations, we had the pleasure of having Sukarno, the first President of Indonesia, as the chief guest. Now, President Subianto was present on our completing 75 years as a Republic. In the 1950s, Nehru and Sukarno, leaders of two nascent republics, bonded well to further the cause of developing Afro-Asian nations liberated from the colonial yolk. Though our bilateral relations did traverse rough patches, our deep historical bonds and shared culture have endured. If Sukarno means 'good', Subianto means 'inner purity'.

R. Narayanan,
Navi Mumbai

The visit raises critical questions about the future of India-Indonesia relations. Can this visit catalyse a substantial increase in bilateral trade? How will both nations address the geopolitical pressures from China while enhancing their strategic partnership? Further, what concrete steps will be taken to deepen defence cooperation and maritime security in the Indo-Pacific? These inquiries are vital for realising the full potential of this historic partnership.

Anshu Bharti,
Begusarai, Bihar

Court on noise

The Bombay High Court has taken a tough stand on the use of loudspeakers by religious institutions by asserting that loudspeakers are not an essential part of any religion. Law enforcement agencies have been directed to take strict action against those who violate this.
Religious institutions take advantage of the stoic resignation of people towards noise. Instead of creating a tranquil atmosphere for worship, many religious places have become noise-creating places. People should not be deprived of their right to live in quiet places. People who suffer much discomfiture from noise from other sources are forced to endure the cacophony of loudspeakers too. Let us hope that the directive against the use of loudspeakers in religious institutions will be implemented all over the country.

Venu G.S.,
Kollam, Kerala

Rural reading rooms

It is heartening to note and read about ("Inside India's rural reading rooms", January 25). Books are power houses of knowledge. The habit of reading is losing its way and direction at a time when information is being sought in the online mode. Rural India has immense potential and it is through such wonderful initiatives such as reading rooms, that knowledge can be shared and imparted among the young. The young of today, born in digital times, should be taught about reading, writing and gaining knowledge the proper way. Reading rooms would help them spend time prudently and, most importantly, would limit the use of time on electronic gadgets, specifically mobile phones. Rural reading rooms should be encouraged.

Balasubramaniam Pavani,
Secunderabad

Dr. K.M. Cherian

Dr. K.M. Cherian is a legendary figure in the field of cardiac surgery. His passing is a loss to the medical world as he endeared himself to countless patients.

Manoharan Muthuswamy,
Chennai

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address

An enduring commitment to the Indo-Pacific

Harsh V. Pant

Vice President at Observer Research Foundation, New Delhi

Pratnashree Basu

Associate Fellow, Indo-Pacific, Observer Research Foundation

The inauguration of Donald Trump as the 47th President of the United States marks an unparalleled comeback in American political history. It also signals a vital moment in global geopolitics, particularly for the Indo-Pacific region. During his first term, Mr. Trump redefined U.S. engagement in the Indo-Pacific. As he embarks on his second term, expectations of a more assertive U.S. security posture and strengthened alliances are high. The presence of the foreign ministers from India, Japan, and Australia – America's key Quad partners – at the inauguration underscores the strategic importance of this grouping in Mr. Trump's foreign policy vision. With the Indo-Pacific being central to U.S.'s strategic priorities, Trump 2.0 signals a renewed focus on deepening defence, economic, and technological cooperation with 'like-minded' nations to address persisting and emerging challenges, while ensuring regional stability.

Importance of Indo-Pacific

Mr. Trump's first term marked a pivotal shift in Washington's approach to this region, redefining the strategic landscape in three ways. First, under Trump's leadership, the U.S. adopted the term 'Indo-Pacific', replacing the previously favoured 'Asia-Pacific', which reflected a recalibration of the geopolitical lens, moving beyond a focus solely on East Asia and the Pacific Rim to encompass a wider area critical for global trade, security, and strategic stability. The term expanded the geographic focus to include the Indian Ocean, emphasising the importance of securing sea lines of communication, addressing maritime challenges, and underscoring the U.S.'s intent to counterbalance China's growing influence. The Indo-Pacific expanded the strategic narrative, integrating defence, security, and political considerations alongside economic cooperation.

Second, there were structural changes in the U.S. defence and security framework, including the renaming of the U.S. Pacific Command as the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command in 2018, reflecting the operational import accorded to the Indo-Pacific. The Office of the Secretary of Defence was reorganised to establish specialised units focusing on Indo-Pacific allies and partners.

Third, the revival of the Quad underscored the Trump administration's recognition of the Indo-Pacific as the fulcrum of 21st century geopolitics, reflecting a pragmatic convergence of interests among its members. The U.S. provided a robust push to institutionalise the grouping. The Trump administration elevated the Quad dialogue to the ministerial level, laying the groundwork for deeper collaboration in maritime security, supply chain resilience, and technological standards.

The Joe Biden administration inherited the Indo-Pacific framework and maintained its strategic centrality. Mr. Biden elevated the Quad further by convening the first-ever Quad leaders' summit in 2021, marking a significant institutional leap. He emphasised multilateralism and sought to broaden the Quad's agenda by initiating collaboration on vaccines, climate change, critical technologies, and infrastructure development. He also introduced the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework in 2022, complementing the strategic focus with economic engagement. The emphasis on a rules-based order and inclusive development in the Indo-Pacific aligned the Quad's mission with broader global governance goals.

Prospects in Trump 2.0

The bipartisan consensus on the Indo-Pacific's importance ensures continuity in U.S. engagement. While Mr. Trump could take a more assertive stance against China, his reliance on India, Japan, and Australia to share the burden of regional security would remain and likely be strengthened.

The new administration's first major foreign policy initiative was a meeting of the Quad foreign ministers on January 21. At his confirmation hearing, the U.S. Secretary of State, Marco Rubio, characterised China as the most formidable adversary the U.S. has faced, noting that the challenges prompting the Quad's revival under Mr. Trump have intensified. This was the administration's first significant engagement with foreign leaders. All four members reaffirmed Washington's unwavering commitment to the Indo-Pacific region while also setting the stage for this year's Quad Summit early in the Trump Presidency. Mr. Rubio also met with the three Quad foreign ministers separately with India being the first bilateral meeting.

A joint statement released after the meeting emphasised the importance of international law, peace, stability, and maritime security for regional prosperity while opposing unilateral actions to alter the status quo through force or coercion. It also highlighted the dedication to enhancing regional maritime, economic, and technological security, alongside promoting resilient and reliable supply chains. The members agreed to hold regular ministerial meetings and prepare for a leaders' summit to be hosted by India.

Under the new Trump administration, the Indo-Pacific is likely to retain prominence but with a sharper focus on hard power dynamics. The Indo-Pacific has changed since Mr. Trump's last term in office, and so have the priorities that would influence the President's approach this time. It is likely that alongside boosting security-related frameworks, Mr. Trump may also bolster mechanisms that have a broader and more diverse agenda so long as they serve to preserve the existing rules-based order.

Under the new Trump administration, the Indo-Pacific is likely to regain prominence but with a sharper focus on hard power dynamics

The failed 'Delhi model'

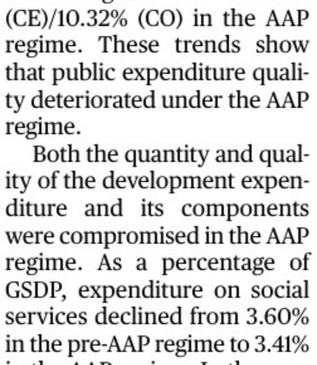
Under the AAP regime, fiscal space was created by reducing capital expenditure

STATE OF PLAY

Sthanu R. Nair & Dhruv Jain

As Delhiites prepare to elect a new government, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government has been pushing its welfare-based governance model, called the 'Delhi model,' on the campaign trail. It has been advertising its welfare schemes, such as the free electricity and water supply, bus travel for women, and primary health care, arguing that it not only managed to prioritise human capital development by spending more on the social sector, but has also succeeded in augmenting the fiscal space by cutting down inefficient government spending and mobilising revenues. To check the validity of these claims, we examined the fiscal indicators of Delhi on average during the 10 years when the AAP was in power (2015-16 to 2024-25) compared with those in the pre-AAP decade (2004-05 to 2012-13).

Before the AAP came to power, Delhi had demonstrated fiscal prudence from 2004-05 by containing revenue deficit and gross fiscal deficit (GFD). The revenue account remained in surplus throughout the pre-AAP and AAP regimes. However, the revenue surplus declined on average from -2.38% of gross state domestic product (GSDP) during the pre-AAP regime to -0.82% under the AAP regime. Although the GFD-GSDP ratio was within the Fiscal Responsibility Legislation (FRL) limit of 3% in the pre-AAP and AAP regimes, it declined from 0.68% on average in the pre-AAP regime to 0.25% in the AAP regime. But this downward correction in GFD was achieved by reducing much-needed capital outlay, a violation of a 'golden rule' in public finance.



The AAP government successfully reduced Delhi's debt-to-GSDP ratio to 2% on an average from 13.7% earlier. This is a stupendous achievement.

The share of revenue expenditure in the total spending of Delhi increased significantly from 58.27% on average in the pre-AAP regime to 77.63% in the AAP regime. Concomitantly, the share of expenditures which are incurred on asset creation, namely capital expenditure (CE) and capital outlay (CO), declined significantly on an average from 41.73% (CE)/15.82% (CO) in the pre-AAP regime to 22.37% (CE)/10.32% (CO) in the AAP regime. These trends show that public expenditure quality deteriorated under the AAP regime.

Both the quantity and quality of the development expenditure and its components were compromised in the AAP regime. As a percentage of GSDP, expenditure on social services declined from 3.60% in the pre-AAP regime to 3.41% in the AAP regime. In the case of economic services, the decline was steeper from 2.29% to 1.28%. This drop was caused by a cut in the capital expenditure on these two functional heads. The capital expenditure on social services declined from 0.82% of GSDP in the pre-AAP regime to 0.56% in the AAP regime. In the case of economic services, the decline was steeper from 1.82% of GSDP to 0.38%.

As a percentage of GSDP, the expenditure on education and medical and public health increased by only 0.08 and 0.06 percentage points in the AAP regime over the previous regime. The expenditures on water supply and sanitation, housing, urban development, transport, and communication declined as a percentage of GSDP under the AAP regime, with the decline being the highest for roads and bridges, water supply, sanitation, and urban development.

On the revenue front, too, the AAP regime has performed poorly. On average, Delhi's total revenue receipts declined from 7.42% of GSDP in the pre-AAP regime to 5.82% in the AAP regime. Both own tax revenue and non-tax revenue contributed to the decline. The own tax revenue-GSDP ratio declined from 5.85% in the pre-AAP regime to 4.84% in the AAP regime. Own non-tax revenue decreased sharply from 0.85% to 0.10%, implying that the AAP government's free electricity, water supply, bus travel, and health care policy have adversely impacted non-tax revenues. Interestingly, Delhi received more grants from the Centre (0.88% of GSDP) than the previous regime (0.71%).

Overall, the revenue and expenditure trends reveal that the AAP regime has not augmented its revenue capacity to fund welfare programmes. Instead, fiscal space was created by reducing the much-needed capital expenditure.

Sthanu R. Nair teaches Economics and Public Policy at IIM Kozhikode; Dhruv Jain is a post-graduate programme student at IIM Kozhikode. Views are personal

India and U.S. lead Courseera enrolments for Gen AI courses

Corporate sponsorship plays a significant role in boosting enrolments in India

DATA POINT

The Hindu Data Team

The demand for generative AI training has grown significantly among learners and enterprises, according to Coursera data, highlighted in the Future of Jobs Report 2025. India and the U.S. are leading this global trend in enrolments, but the factors driving demand differ between the two countries. While individual learners primarily drive demand in the U.S., corporate sponsorship plays a significant role in boosting enrolments in India.

Globally, individual learners on Coursera are focusing on foundational generative AI skills and conceptual topics, such as prompt engineering, trustworthy AI practices, and strategic decision-making around AI. Meanwhile, institution-sponsored learners are prioritising practical workplace applications, including using AI to enhance productivity in tools such as Excel or developing applications with AI-driven solutions.

Chart 1 shows the Generative AI enrolment trend in 2022-2024 in Coursera. The demand for generative AI training is not happening in isolation but is closely tied to broader technological shifts reshaping industries worldwide. The survey reveals that among nine transformative technologies, AI and information processing technologies are expected to have the most significant impact on businesses by 2030, with 86% of employers identifying them as likely to drive business transformation. This surpasses the anticipated influence of robots and autonomous systems (58%) or energy generation and storage technologies (41%).

Chart 2 shows the technology trends driving business transformation, as answered by the surveyed employers.

Since the release of ChatGPT in November 2022, investment flows into AI technologies have increased nearly eight-fold, driving significant advancements in the field. This influx of capital has been matched by investment in the physical infrastructure required to support these technologies, such as servers.

The growing demand for generative AI training is also closely tied to the shifting landscape of job roles driven by technological advancements. Employers expect technological developments such as AI and robotics to play a pivotal role in shaping the workforce, says the survey. By 2030, roles such as Big Data Specialists, FinTech Engineers, AI and Machine Learning Specialists, and Software and Applications Developers are projected to experience the fastest net growth. **Chart 3** shows the top jobs by fastest net growth as projected by surveyed employers.

The interplay of humans, machines, and algorithms is fundamentally reshaping the nature of work. Automation and advancements in technology are driving a shift in how tasks are performed across industries. According to the survey, 47% of tasks today are completed primarily by humans, while 22% are handled mainly by technology, and 30% involve a mix of both. By 2030, tasks are expected to be more equally divided.

This shift is driven largely by increased automation. Of the nearly 15% point reduction expected in the proportion of work tasks performed solely by humans between 2025 and 2030, approximately 82% will be attributable to advancing automation, while the remaining 19% will result from expanded human-machine collaboration.

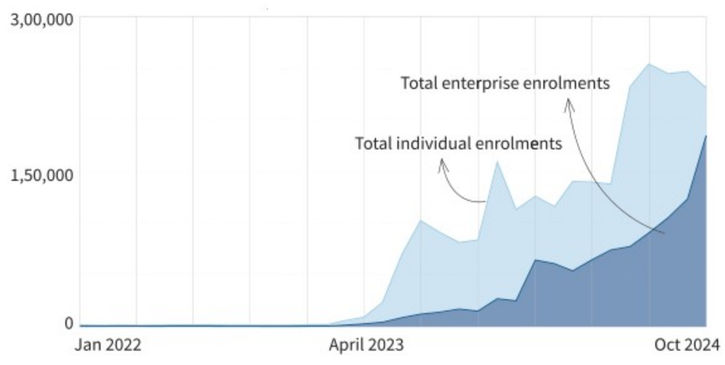
Chart 4 shows the share of work tasks expected to be delivered predominantly by human workers, by technology, or by a combination of both.

This transition highlights the growing importance of equipping the workforce with the skills needed to thrive in a world increasingly shared with intelligent machines.

Shifting landscapes

The charts are sourced from the 'Future of Jobs Report 2025' released by the World Economic Forum

Chart 1: The chart shows the Generative AI enrolment trend for 2022-2024. The chart reveals significant growth in demand for Generative AI training among both individual learners and enterprises



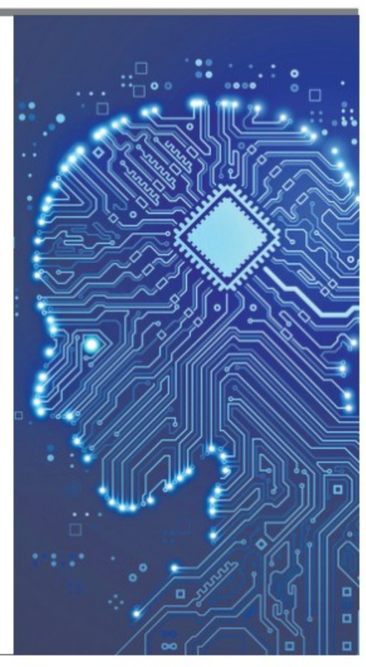


Chart 2: Share of employers surveyed who identify the stated technology trend as likely to drive business

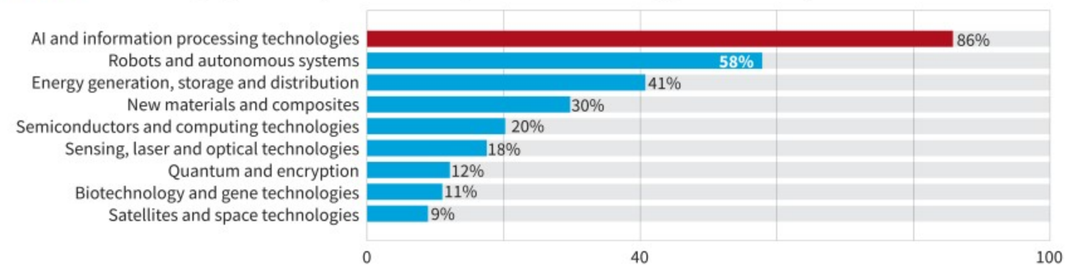


Chart 3: The chart shows the top jobs by fastest net growth by surveyed employers. The fastest growing job roles by 2030 tend to be driven by technological developments.

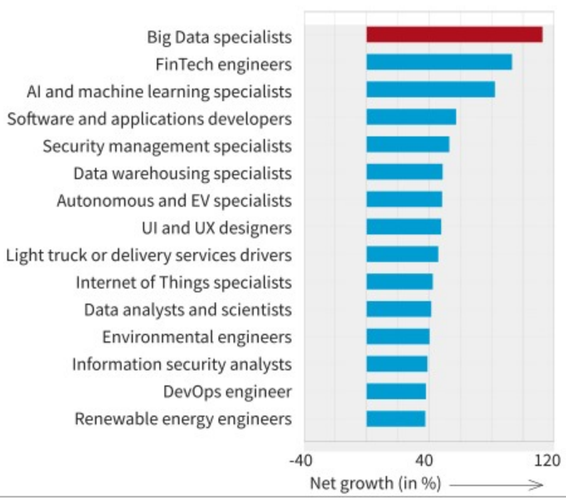
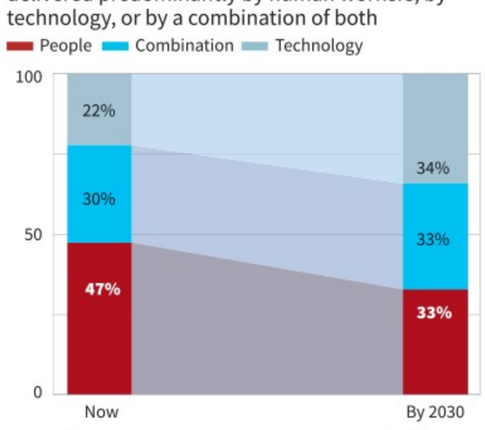


Chart 4: Share of total work tasks expected to be delivered predominantly by human workers, by technology, or by a combination of both



Today, 47% of work tasks are performed mainly by humans, 22% by technology, and 30% by a combination of both. By 2030, employers expect these proportions to be nearly evenly split across these three categories

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JANUARY 27, 1975

Austerity marks Republic Day celebrations

New Delhi, Jan. 26: The nation to-day celebrated the Republic Day with gaiety. In New Delhi the highlight of the celebration was the parade at which the President, Mr. Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed, took the salute.

Reports received from all over the country show that the silver jubilee of the ushering in of the Republican Constitution was observed with subdued austerity.

In the Capital itself, the duration of the Republic Day parade was cut short but this did not prevent hundreds of thousands of people gathering to witness the celebration. Both sides of the Rajpath were filled with seething humanity to watch the national spectacle of colour and pageantry. The visiting President of Zambia, Dr. Kenneth Kaunda and his wife Mrs. Betty Kaunda were among the distinguished guests who witnessed the parade.

Mr. Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed who took the salute for the first time since becoming President, arrived at the site along with the Zambian President.

He was received by the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, and her senior colleagues. Before the start of the parade, Mrs. Gandhi laid a wreath at the India Gate memorial dedicated to the immortal soldiers. She was cheered by the crowds as she drove down to the saluting base at Rajpath. The entire function thus acquired a dignified solemnity.

Among the other distinguished guests at the parade were the Australian Minister for Overseas Trade, the Swedish Army's Commander, the Secretary-General of the ILO, Iran's Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, Iraq's Minister for Higher Education, and the Deputy Chief of Army Staff of Bangladesh.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JANUARY 27, 1925

"Fight leprosy" campaign

The following appeal has been issued by the Viceroy for funds in aid of the British Empire Leprosy Relief Association (Indian Council): I make an appeal to-day to India on behalf of the Leprosy Relief Association. I am confident that the object of my appeal cannot fail to command itself to the sympathy both of the rich and the poor and to all classes and creeds without distinction in India.

From Page One

R-Day parade taps into heritage, military might

The parade had a unique blend of India's rich cultural diversity, unity, equality, development and military prowess.

Nearly 10,000 special guests from various walks of life were invited. According to the Defence Ministry, over 77,000 passes were issued, with 32,000 passes having been sold for citizens. The parade was heralded by 300 cultural artists playing "*Sare Jahan Se Achha*" with musical instruments such as shehnai, sundari, nadaswaram, been, mashak been and ransingha. Lieutenant-General Bhavnish Kumar, General Officer Commanding, Delhi Area, commanded the parade.

Slowly, the Brigade of the Guards, the Jat Regiment, the Garhwal Rifles, the Mahar Regiment, the Jammu and Kashmir Rifles Regiment, the Corps of Signals, and others marched down Kartavya Path, with patriotic music and beats. Over 31 tableaux added colour to the show. For the first time, a tri-services tableaux rolled down Kartavya Path, displaying the spirit of jointness and integration.

With the theme "*Shashakt aur Surakshit Bharat*", the tableau depicted a Joint Operations Room facilitating networking and communication among the three Services.

Another highlight was a veterans' tableau on the theme "*Viksit Bharat ki Ore Sadaiv Agrasar*", which was a heartfelt tribute to the unwavering spirit of veterans, symbolising discipline, resilience, and unyielding dedication.

The ceremony culminated with the National Anthem and the release of balloons carrying banners with the official logo depicting 75 years of enactment of the Constitution in both English and Hindi.

Guwahati 'blast': ULFA(I) says it's just a warning

Adhering to a decades-old template, the ULFA(I) and some other extremist groups in the northeast called for the boycott of the Republic Day celebrations. They have often struck on or before January 26 and August 15 to show they mean business. The goriest of such attacks was on August 15, 2004, killing 13 people, including 10 children, in eastern Assam's Dhemaji.

Speaking at a Republic Day programme in eastern Assam's Dibrugarh, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said the government was developing infrastructure to turn Dibrugarh, Tezpur and Silchar towns into cities.

"Dibrugarh will have an Assembly complex by 2027 and will be Assam's second capital. Tezpur will emerge as the cultural capital and will house a Raj Bhavan. Silchar will house a mini-secretariat and the Chief Secretary's Office," he said.

He also announced the inclusion of chess in Assam's school curriculum and a rollback of the New Pension Scheme for State government employees from April 1.

Call for peace

Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh hoped the Republic Day celebration would mark the beginning of the return of peace in the ethnic violence-scarred State.

"On this historic day, as we commemorate the adoption of our glorious Constitution in 1950, let us reaffirm our commitment to upholding the values and principles that define India – its unity, integrity, and vibrant spirit," he posted on X.

His Mizoram counterpart Lalduhoma said, "Republic Day is a reminder of our collective commitment to democracy, equality, and progress. It is a day to reflect on how far we have come and the work still ahead in building an inclusive and just society." Mr. Lalduhoma has been critical of Mr. Singh's handling of the ethnic conflict.

In Nagaland, Governor La. Ganesan said the State government had made every effort to resolve the "Naga political issue", a euphemism for the peace talks between the Centre and various factions of the National Socialist Council of Nagaland.

In his speech, Tripura Governor Indra Sena Reddy Nallu lauded the State government for resolving the decades-old insurgency issues in 2024.

Trump moots 'clean-out' of Gaza, lifts bomb ban

Asked why he lifted the ban on those bombs, Mr. Trump responded, "Because they bought them."

Mr. Trump has built his political career around being unapologetically pro-Israel. On his vision for Gaza, Mr. Trump said he had a call earlier in the day with King Abdullah II of Jordan and would speak on Sunday with President Abdel Fattah el-Sissi of Egypt.

Such a drastic displacement of people would openly contradict Palestinian identity and deep connection to Gaza. Still, Mr. Trump said the part of the world that encompasses Gaza, has "had many, many conflicts" over centuries. He said resettling "could be temporary or long term."

"Something has to happen," Mr. Trump said. "But it's literally a demolition site right now. Almost everything's demolished, and people are dying there."

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, in a statement on Sunday, thanked Mr. Trump for "keeping your promise to give Israel the tools it needs to defend itself." He did not mention Mr. Trump's suggestion on Palestinian refugees.

₹10 lakh crore debt of billionaires waived by BJP, says Kejriwal

Money spent by BJP on waiving ₹50,000 cr. can fund Delhi's welfare schemes, says AAP chief; BJP will stop all schemes if elected, he adds

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Aam Aadmi Party national convener Arvind Kejriwal on Sunday said the people of Delhi should decide whether the "Ganga of public funds" should flow towards the people under the "AAP model" or towards about 400 billionaires under the "BJP model".

Lashing out: Arvind Kejriwal addressing the media at the AAP party office in New Delhi on Sunday. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

At a press conference held here, Mr. Kejriwal claimed that the BJP had waived debts worth ₹10 lakh crore of 400 to 500 billionaires.

"This election is not just about Delhi, it is about deciding the future of the nation – whether public money will be spent on the welfare of citizens or on benefiting a privileged few. Recently, it was revealed that a person with a debt of ₹47,000 crore was let off by settling it at ₹450 crore, essentially providing a benefit of ₹46,500 crore to a single individual. Another person with a debt of ₹6,500 crore had ₹5,000 crore [of it] waived, and the rest was settled for ₹1,500 crore," Mr. Kejriwal said.

Mr. Kejriwal alleged that the BJP gave common people's money as loan to billionaire friends and waived them in a few years. "Just the money spent on waiving ₹50,000 crore for two billionaire friends could fund all of Delhi's welfare schemes," he said.

If the BJP wins in Delhi, the party will stop all welfare schemes, he said.

"I made a calculation. People enjoy savings of ₹4,000-₹5,000 monthly through free electricity, ₹10,000 through free education, ₹5,000 through Mohalla Clinics, and ₹2,500 through free bus travel for women. In total, Delhi residents save about ₹26,000 a month. If the BJP comes to power, these savings will vanish. I want to ask the poor people of Delhi, can you afford an additional burden of ₹25,000 a month?" Mr. Kejriwal asked.

Keep a watch on thyroid disorders and do regular check-ups, suggest experts

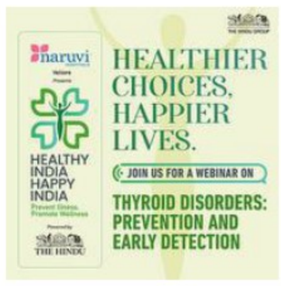
The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

At a webinar hosted by *The Hindu* in collaboration with Naruvi Hospitals, Vellore, under the Healthy India Happy India initiative on Sunday, medical experts focused on thyroid disorders, their prevention, and the importance of early detection.

Aravindan Nair, consultant general and endocrine surgeon at Naruvi, gave a bird's-eye view on thyroid disorders emphasising on its prevalence and the need for regular check-ups.

"Thyroid gland produces thyroxine, which is extremely important for normal functioning of the body. When it gets low, it is hypothyroid, and if it is high, it is hyperthyroid," he explained and added that swelling of thyroid was a very common occurrence.

"If you look at a population survey, 40% to 50% of the population will have undiagnosed thyroid problem and only a small percentage will get detected," said Dr. Nair, who also spoke on malignant thyroid conditions.



He said cancers of thyroid are completely curable in 90% cases with treatment and not every thyroid swelling is malignant. "Imaging and clinical examination are essential for early intervention and to avail minimum morbidity and zero mortality treatment," Dr. Nair said.

His colleague, Sai Krishna Chaitanya P, consultant endocrinologist, detailed thyroid function tests, hypo and hyperthyroid conditions, and thyroiditis (inflammation of the thyroid gland). Identifying the condition is very important, he noted.

"Most individuals can be diagnosed as a part of health packages. But specific tests are recommended when there is a gradual weight gain or weight loss, an increase in lethargy and sleepiness, having no interest in work, feeling tired and sleepy, having constipation or diarrhoea, menstrual irregularities, persistent palpitations and sweating, chronic cough, difficulty in swallowing or breathing, delayed growth in children are symptoms where hypo or hyperthyroidism are suspect and individuals need to get examined for thyroid function test," Dr. Chaitanya pointed out.

Discussing thyroid disorders in pregnancy, Pooja Ramakant, Professor of Endocrine Surgery at King George's Medical University, Lucknow, stressed the need for early detection and management because a lot of changes that happen in the body of a pregnant woman mimic thyroid disorders, which is the second most common disorder after diabetes in pregnancy.

"These physiological changes can continue for at least a year after pregnancy and delivery; gynaecologists can have endocrine evaluation because we need to detect them early to be able to treat them," emphasised Dr. Pooja.

(Webinar is available at https://bit.ly/4jutgfk)

Yogi Adityanath during a public meeting for the Milkipur Assembly constituency byelection, in Ayodhya district on Friday. PTI

Caste, community equations play out in Milkipur byelection

Mayank Kumar
LUCKNOW

As the campaign for the Milkipur Assemly byelection in Ayodhya district of Uttar Pradesh gains momentum, caste and community-centric narratives are taking centre stage.

Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav is sticking to the "PDA" strategy to claim that *pichada* (backward classes), Dalits, and *alpasankhyak* (minorities) have only 20% share in administrative appointments in Ayodhya district, calling upon these communities to vote for the SP.

"The reverse math of favouritism in BJP rule. The PDA community which is 90% in number has only about 20% share in administrative appointments in Ayodhya and the dominant people, who are 10% in number, have 80%. There's nothing more to say," Mr. Yadav said in a post on X.

Milkipur goes to the polls on February 5. The seat fell vacant after sitting SP MLA Awadhesh Prasad won from Faizabad in the 2024 Lok Sabha election. In the byelection, the BJP has fielded Chandrabhanu Paswan against the SP's Ajeet Prasad, who is the son of Mr. Awadhesh.

Milkipur, a seat reserved for the Scheduled Castes, remains a tough electoral landscape for the BJP, which has won the seat only once in the past 33 years. The Faizabad Lok Sabha seat consists mainly of Ayodhya district.

"Ayodhya is witnessing byelection in Milkipur, hence we are coming with figures of Backwards, Dalit and Muslim representation in administrative system of Ayodhya. Our leader is bringing the real face of the BJP, the party which calls for *Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas* but have neglected these communities. PDA is our slogan and we have continuously fought for rights of these groups," senior SP leader Sunil Singh Yadav said.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, who is leading the BJP campaign, is reaching out to the numerically significant Dalit community by terming the SP an "anti-Dalit" party for reportedly opposing development initiatives taken by the BJP government for the community. "The SP has always insulted Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and given patronage to mafias. In the SP rule, goons used to grab their land by just placing a flag," he said at an election rally.

The BJP which is focusing on robust booth management, is hoping for a sizeable support from Dalits and sections of Other Backward Classes, in addition to the full support from Brahmins and Rajputs.

"We are getting support from all sections. People in Milkipur are dissatisfied with the performance of Awadhesh Prasad. They are waiting to correct the mistake of Lok Sabha election. We will get a sizeable support from SC voters," said Dinesh Dubey, a senior state BJP leader.

Justice Jagdish Khehar's decisions often contradicted Centre's views

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

Justice Jagdish Singh Khehar (retd), the first Sikh Chief Justice of India who was selected for the Padma Vibhushan on Saturday for 'public affairs', has a judicial legacy that collided with the views of the Union government and once ruled in favour of an embattled Opposition in the first term of the NDA regime.

Heading a multi-faith Constitution Bench in August 2017, the very last month of his tenure as Chief Justice from January 2017, Justice Khehar upheld triple talaq or instant talaq in his minority verdict as a fundamental right. The 44th Chief Justice of India had found the "1,400-year-old" practice of Muslim men divorcing their wives by saying 'talaq' three times is an integral part of the freedom of religion.

The Centre had argued that instant talaq was not fundamental to Islam and personal law must abide by the principles of dignity and non-discrimination.

The same month had witnessed a nine-judge

Jagdish Singh Khehar

Bench headed by Chief Justice Khehar elevate the right to privacy to the echelons of fundamental rights. The court declared privacy as a part of the right to life, dignity and integrity under Article 21 of the Constitution. The Union government had found the concept of privacy an elitist concept, at the most a common law right, which must readily give way to public interest.

Justice (as he was then) Khehar, in October 2015, overcame his "awkward predicament" of being a Supreme Court Collegium member and braving demands to recuse himself, to declare the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) Act, giving politicians and civil society a final say in the appointment of judges to the highest courts, unconstitutional. Justice Khehar found it difficult for the judiciary to share its wisdom of appointment of judges with the political-executive. The judgment had dismissed the Centre's argument that NJAC was the "will of the people" and cannot be reviewed.

However, Justice Khehar had taken an unconventional approach to invite public suggestions to improve the collegium system, but the reworked draft of the Memorandum of Procedure for Appointment of Judges has not seen the light of the day.

The Supreme Court itself had blamed the subsequent delay in judicial appointments to the government's grouse of having lost the NJAC case.

A unanimous decision of a Constitution Bench headed by Justice Khehar showed the door to the BJP-propped rebel Congress government of Kalikho Pul and paved the way for the return of Congress's Nabam Tuki government in 2016. The court had quashed the then Arunachal Pradesh Governor J.P. Rajkhowa's decision to advance the Assembly session which led to President's Rule in the State.

Subsequently, Mr. Pul's wife linked the Constitution Bench decision with the suicide of her husband. Dangwimsai Pul wrote a two-page note to Justice Khehar, who was Chief Justice by then, seeking a CBI probe into her husband's suicide note which raised allegations against Supreme Court judges and politicians. Allegations were levelled against two of the judges on the Constitution Bench, including Justice Khehar himself. She later withdrew the note from the Supreme Court after her note was converted into a petition and placed on the judicial side of the court.

A "tough judge", as Chief Justice T.S. Thakur once described him, Chief Justice Khehar did not shirk from punishing judges who stepped out of line. In May 2017, he led a seven-judge Bench which took the unprecedented decision to sentence a sitting Calcutta High Court judge, C.S. Karnan, to six months' imprisonment for contempt and for reducing the Indian judiciary into a "laughing stock".

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri in Beijing for talks with Chinese officials

Press Trust of India
BEIJING

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri arrived in Beijing on Sunday for a two-day visit during which he will hold talks with Chinese officials, in the second such high-profile visit from India to China in less than a month and a half.

The visit of Mr. Misri, a former Ambassador to China, is taking place on Republic Day ahead of the celebrations of China's Spring Festival and the Chinese New Year, beginning on January 29, during which the country will officially shut down for a week.

Soon after his arrival, Mr. Misri met Liu Jianchao, head of the influential International Department of the ruling Communist Party, which sets the tone for China's foreign policy.

The two sides exchanged views on jointly implementing the important consensus reached by the leaders of the two countries, strengthening exchanges and dialogues, and promoting the improvement and healthy and stable development of China-India relations, as well as international and regional issues of common concern, state-run *Global Times* reported.

"The resumption of this bilateral mechanism flows from the agreement at the leadership level to discuss the next steps for India-China relations, including in the political, economic, and people-to-people domains," the Ministry of External Affairs said in a brief statement.

On Friday, China welcomed Mr. Misri's visit and sounded positive about its outcome, saying the development followed a series of interactions between top leaders and officials from both countries after over four years of stalled ties over the Ladakh military standoff.

"We welcome Foreign Secretary Shri. Vikram Misri's travel to China for the meeting of the Foreign Secretary-Vice Minister mechanism between China and India," Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Mao Ning told a media briefing in Beijing.

Safety in unity: A tri-services tableau rolls down Kartavya Path for the first time in a Republic Day parade. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

On top: Dimple Singh Bhati, first woman Army officer to present a salute to the President from a motorcycle. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Exotic tunes: The Indonesian National Armed Forces take part in the parade on Kartavya Path. AFP

Salute to tech: The Army displays robotic mules, or multi-utility legged equipment, during the Republic Day parade in Kolkata. PTI

Army's missile firepower thunders down Kartavya Path in show of strike options

The parade features key missile systems, including BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles, upgraded Pinaka Multi-Rocket Launch System, BM-21 Grad MRLS, and the Pralay quasi-ballistic missile system; the new Battlefield Surveillance System, Sanjay, was showcased for the first time

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

The missile systems showcased on Kartavya Path during the Republic Day parade on Sunday capture the evolving long-range tactical strike options for the Indian military, especially the Army, the need for which is one of the key lessons from the war in Ukraine.

BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles, upgraded Pinaka Multi-Rocket Launch System (MRLS) with a range of 75 km, BM-21 Grad, which is a 122 mm MRLS, and Pralay quasi-ballistic missile system were among those showcased.

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) showcased a model of the indigenous Advanced Towed Artillery Gun System (ATAGS) on its tableau.

In addition to Pralay, the Army's new Battlefield Surveillance System, Sanjay, was at the parade for the first time. Sanjay has been jointly developed by the Army and Bharat Electronics Ltd. at a cost of ₹2,402 crore, and the systems will be inducted in all operational brigades, divisions and corps of the Army in three phases between March and October.

Upgraded tech: The Pralay quasi-ballistic missile system being displayed during the 76th Republic Day parade on Kartavya Path in New Delhi on Sunday. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

As one of the most advanced rocket systems globally, the fully automated 214 mm Pinaka MRLS battery can deliver a salvo of 72 rockets on the target up to 75 km in 44 seconds, the commentary booklet distributed at the parade on Sunday said. The Army has four Pinaka regiments in service and six more are on order.

Twin-launched Pralay

The Pralay with a twin launcher system showcased at the parade is a quasi-ballistic missile and India's first ballistic missile designated for conventional role. Development trials of Pralay are over and the development is now complete, as reported by *The Hindu* earlier. The Defence Acquisition Council has accorded Acceptance of Necessity for a few hundred of the missiles for the Army and the Air Force. "In threat scenario, Pralay is capable of destruction of war waging potential of adversary even before the commencement of contact battle owing to its flexible range and lethality," the booklet stated.

The upgraded Pinaka is going to be the mainstay of the Army's long-range rocket artillery. Last November, the DRDO announced the successful completion of flight tests of guided Pinaka rockets of 75 km range, paving the way for its induction by doubling the original range of 37 km. Work is on to enhance the range to 300 km.

Last September, the Army's Director-General of Artillery, Lt. Gen. Adosh Kumar, said that the Pinaka system was being widely exploited and its ability was second to none. "We are looking at extending the range of the Pinaka rockets and a lot of work is going on. The DRDO is confident of achieving it."

In addition to Pinaka, the Army has five Grad rocket regiments and three Smerch regiments with a range of 90 km. Another missile, Nirbhay sub-sonic cruise missile, the longest range option, is in an advanced stage of development trials and can be expected to be showcased in the next few years.

Specialised ammunition

Another aspect adding to the lethality of Pinaka is specialised ammunition. Trials have been completed using high-explosive pre-fragmented rockets in the Pinaka system, which will increase the range by 15-20%, and an area denial munition (ADM) system, which can be anti-tank and anti-personnel. Contracts for procurement of both are expected to be signed soon, Lt. Gen. Kumar had said.

The Grad proved its worth during the 1999 Kargil War when its ability to deliver a salvo of 40 rockets in just 20 seconds played a key role in neutralising fortified enemy positions on high-altitude ridges. Initially mounted on the Ural-3750 truck platform, the BM-21 underwent a significant upgrade, transitioning to the indigenously developed Ashok Leyland super stallion platform. This upgrade enhanced mobility, increased payload capacity, and streamlined maintenance, the commentary noted.

The BrahMos detachment on Kartavya Path, led by Captain Suraj Singh, was from the 344 Missile Regiment, the youngest unit within the BrahMos fraternity.

Southern flavour fills 'At Home' reception of President Murmu

Droupadi Murmu, Narendra Modi, Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto and Jagdeep Dhankhar during the 'At Home' reception. ANI

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A southern flavour prevailed at the customary reception hosted by President Droupadi Murmu on Republic Day on Sunday, with artists and music from Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh and an extensive menu featuring snacks from each of them.

The theme was a continuation of the invitation itself, which featured craft from the five States – from Kalamkari weaves to a fridge magnet made of Ganjifa art of Mysuru and miniature Etikoppaka dolls. The idea for the theme for the reception, marking the completion of 75 years of the Indian Republic, was floated by President Murmu herself, but had its roots in past customs as well.

While the invite was executed by the National Institute of Design (NID), Ahmedabad, and its Bengaluru campus, the staff of the Rashtrapati Bhavan put together the menu featuring Udupi uddina vadas, filter coffee, murukku, tapioca chips, Mysore Pak, rava kesari and so on.

Guests were greeted by Yakshagana and Kathakali artists as they entered Amrit Udyan where the reception was held.

Instrumental music featuring South Indian songs were played throughout the event.

Special invitees included drone *didis*, organic farmers and people with disabilities.

Rashtrapati Bhavan officials say that this will not be the last time that such themes are applied for functions.

With thousands on parade pathway, Delhi comes under a security blanket

Samridhi Tewari
Satvika Mahajan
NEW DELHI

Drawing thousands of people from across the country, the 76th Republic Day celebrations witnessed loud cheers, a sense of pride among parade-goers and a thick layer of security in the national capital on Sunday.

The buzz for the parade on Kartavya Path began early in the morning as queues started forming as early as 4 a.m. The Defence Ministry had issued more than 77,000 passes, including 32,000 that were sold. As many as 10,000 guests were special invitees.

Eager to see the defence forces in action, children, especially girls, came dressed in the colours of the National Fag.

A group of students of fourth grade marched from the Central Secretariat metro station to Kartavya Path at 7 a.m., singing "Vande Matram" in unison. "I am very excited to see the fighter jets, and the Army's daredevils on motorcycles. I even made my sister paint a tiranga on my face early in morning," Kshitij Nagar, an eight-year-old dressed up as an Army man, said.

Eager wait: People gather to watch the 76th Republic Day parade on Kartavya Path in New Delhi on Sunday. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Ahead of the parade, an Army contingent participating in it started the day with a prayer on the lawns of India Gate, where Army tankers had been parked. A small table was set up adjacent to the tankers for prayers as the personnel paid their respects to God.

Thick layer of security

More than 15,000 personnel had been deployed across the national capital to strengthen security, aided by CCTV cameras and drones in monitoring. Entry to the event included a four-layer security check and frisking. Wallets were checked for coins, keys and other non-permissible items. Bags were not allowed. Many had reached as early as 5 a.m. anticipating the security measures and overcrowding. The Delhi Police's duty began at 3 a.m. when they put up barriers across the venue and set up security checkpoints.

To reach Kartavya Path, vehicles were made to go past several police checkpoints, where police scanned the vehicle trunk and underbody.

Several traffic advisories were issued that barred entry of vehicles on certain stretches of the capital, while many were requested to opt for public transport. The Metro was operational from 4 a.m.

Snipers were on rooftops, with over 200 buildings along the parade route sealed and windows secured, the police said. Commandos, quick reaction teams, PCR vans, anti-sabotage checks and SWAT teams were deployed at strategic locations.

Kharge flays efforts to impose 'one nation, one party' on Indians

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI/BENGALURU

There is an attempt to impose "one nation, one party" on the country's citizens and the Constitution had come under constant attack from the ruling party, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said on Sunday.

Mallikarjun Kharge

In his message on the occasion of the 76th Republic Day, the Congress chief mounted a scathing attack on the ruling party.

"There is an inherent tendency to impose 'one nation, one party' on 140 crore diverse people, who believe in 'Unity in Diversity'. Every sacred tenet of the Constitution is being shredded into pieces by an authoritarian regime," Mr. Kharge said.

The Congress chief said that whenever failures of the Union government were pointed out, it either indulged in whataboutery or resorted to diversionary tactics or labelled whistleblowers as "anti-nationals".

'Constant intrusion'

Mr. Kharge said that universities and self-governing institutions had witnessed "constant intrusion", large sections of the media had been converted into "propagandists" for the ruling party, and dissent was being "strangulated by witch-hunt of Opposition leaders".

Economic inequalities had widened, even as the country's resources were being "handed over to crony capitalist and billionaire friends" of those in power, the Congress leader said.

He charged the BJP with practising "pseudo-nationalism".

The Opposition leader also accused the ruling party of following "a vicious, hateful agenda immersed in religious fundamentalism" in the past one decade.

"Minorities are being targeted, and those who are secular are being tarnished by the paint of Goebbelsian propaganda. The weaker sections are being treated as second-class citizens. Atrocities and unheard-of violence against them have become a regular occurrence," he said.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER & BASIN MANAGER,
INDRAVATI & KOLAB BASIN, BARINIPUT (JEYPORE), DIST:-KORAPUT, PIN-764006
e-mail id-cebmikb@gmail.com

e- Procurement Notice - Bid Identification No. CEBMIKB-02/2024-25

Online tenders are invited on EPC mode of contract from perspective bidders for the following work :

1.	Name of work	:	Construction of Underground Pipe Line (UGPL) Distribution System for Turi-Guntat Irrigation Project in the District of Nabarangpur on EPC mode of contract (Turn Key basis) including power connectivity, Electro-Mechanical components, PIM and operation & maintenance of complete commissioned system for 5 years or 5 khariff seasons whichever is more
2.	Approximate value of work put to tender.	:	₹ 212.37 Cr (Excluding GST)
3.	Class of contractor	:	'Super' Class or equivalent
4.	EMD	:	₹ 2,12,36,900/-
5.	Tender Fee	:	₹10,000/- (Non-refundable) through on-line mode
6.	Period of Completion	:	30 (Thirty) calendar months including Rainy reason
7.	Date & time of availability of bid document in the portal.	:	Dt. 29/01/2025 from 10:00 AM to Dt. 03/03/2025 up to 05:30 P.M.
8.	Date & time of pre-bid Conference.	:	06/02/2025 at 11:30 AM in the O/o the Chief Engineer & Basin Manager, Indravati & Kolab Basin, At/Po: Bariniput, District : Koraput in physical/virtual mode through Google Meet. The interested bidders should ask for link by giving their e-mail Ids to cebmikb@gmail.com well in advance.
9.	Last Date / Time for receipt of bids in the portal	:	Dt. 03/03/2025 up to 05:30 P.M.
10.	Date & time of opening of Technical bids	:	Dt.04/03/2025 at 11:30 AM.
11.	Place of opening of bids	:	O/o the Chief Engineer & Basin Manager, Indravati & Kolab Basin, At/Po: Bariniput, District: Koraput
12.	Name and Address of the Officer inviting Bid	:	Chief Engineer & Basin Manager, Indravati & Kolab Basin, At/Po: Bariniput, District: Koraput

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal "https://tendersodisha.gov.in"
Addendum/ Corrigendum/ Cancellation if any required will be published in Govt. website only.

Chief Engineer & Basin Manager, Indravati & Kolab Basin,Bariniput.

A-944: OIPR-32456/11/0002/2425

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDERS (Through KPP Portal Only)

BWSSB invites tenders in two stage tender system from eligible contractors for the following works.

Sl. No.	Name of the Works	Amount put to Tender / EMD Amount
Office of the Chief Engineer (WWM-East), 5th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bangalore - 560 009.		
IFT No.:BWSSB/CE(WWM-E)/DCE(WWM-E&W)/TA-1/1067/2024-25		Date:23.01.2025
1	Providing and Laying of 900mm dia RCC NP-3 class sewer pipeline from Byrasandra Lake to SG Palya Police Station coming under AEE(WMM-N-K&T)-2 Sub Division **(Call-2).**	Rs. 407.25 Lakhs / Rs. 7.208 Lakhs
IFT No.:BWSSB/CE(WWM-E)/DCE(WWM-E&W)/TA-1/1069/2024-25		Date:23.01.2025
2	Providing and Laying of 900/1000mm dia RCC NP-3 class sewer pipeline from Sarakki 18 MLD ISPS to Sarakki Lake Bund JP nagar and 11th Main Jayanagar to Marenahalli, jayanagar coming under AEE(WMM-N-K&T)-2 Sub Division **(Call-2).**	Rs. 369.08 Lakhs / Rs. 5.536 Lakhs

For both the above works, Last date for receipt of tenders: **10.02.2025 upto 17:30 Hrs.**
Technical Tenders will be opened on: **12.02.2025 at 16.00 Hrs.**

Sd/- Chief Engineer (WWM-East)

The details regarding the tender and participatin in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the above signed office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/JA/4522/2024-25

INBRIEF

Akhilesh Yadav takes dip at Sangam during Maha Kumbh

Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav visited the Maha Kumbh and took a dip at the Sangam in Prayagraj on Sunday. Talking to the media, Mr. Yadav said he aimed to bring harmony, peace and tolerance in society so that the country will continue to move forward with these values for the betterment of the people. "On Republic Day, on this auspicious occasion, I got the opportunity to take 11 dips in the Sangam as per the tradition. Today, we take a pledge that there should be harmony, goodwill and everyone should keep moving forward with tolerance," said Mr. Yadav. Taking a swipe at Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, he said the Maha Kumbh was a spiritual event and not a water-sport event.

Ashwini Vaishnaw interacts with invitees of *Mann Ki Baat*

Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting Ashwini Vaishnaw on Sunday interacted with special invitees of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's *Mann Ki Baat* programme who were selected as distinguished guests for the Republic Day parade. They were invited by Akashvani to its New Delhi office. "On the special invitation of the Prime Minister, individuals and representatives of organisations who have undertaken remarkable work, had been invited to witness the Republic Day parade. These individuals have been personally mentioned by the Prime Minister over the past 10 years in the iconic *Mann Ki Baat* programme broadcasted on Akashvani," read a press release.

Assam tea workers prone to post-TB fungal disease: study

Chronic pulmonary aspergillosis, or CPA, is a life-threatening infection that strikes individuals with immunodeficiency; an earlier study had flagged prevalence of epidemic dropsy in State's tea belt

Rahul Karmakar
GUWAHATI

Two years after a study flagged the epidemic dropsy threat, a new research paper has identified a life-threatening fungal infection mostly in the damaged lungs of tuberculosis survivors among Assam's tea plantation workers.

TB has been a major public health issue across the tea belts in Assam's Brahmaputra and Barak valleys, afflicting 217 per 1,00,000 population according to the National TB Prevalence Survey of 2019-2021. The risk factors include poverty, poor nutrition, kitchen smoke, close contact with smear-positive patients, and living in congested environments.

A team of researchers from the Assam Medical College and Hospital in Dibrugarh has now put the focus on chronic pulmonary aspergillosis (CPA), an infection caused by *Aspergillus fumigatus*, a fungus that strikes individuals with immunodeficiency. CPA is a chronic lung disease that occurs commonly in pre-existing lung cavities. It mostly occurs in post-TB or active TB patients and shares similar clinical features with tuberculosis.

Persistent problem: TB has been a major public health issue across the tea belts in Assam's Brahmaputra and Barak valleys. ANI

The study, the first of its kind among tea workers, was published in the journal *PLOS Neglected Tropical Diseases*. Its authors are Aishwarya Selvasekhar, Reema Nath, Gourangie Gogoi, and Pronami Borah.

The team examined 128 patients visiting three tea garden hospitals and two referral hospitals in Dibrugarh district, which has 177 of Assam's 803 major tea estates and a high TB burden. These patients – tea workers and their dependents from four tea estates – experienced chronic cough, haemoptysis (coughing blood), weight loss or fatigue, and other respiratory symptoms for three months or more.

Using advanced serological testing and radiological imaging, the researchers recorded a CPA prevalence of 17.18% in the year-long study. CPA seropositivity was 18.5% in active TB patients but spiked to 48.9% in those who had completed treatment, underlining the fungal infection as a post-TB health issue.

Worse than Africa

The mean age of the patients was 41.9 and CPA was found to be more common in middle-age male workers (80 against 48 females).

According to the study, Assam's high CPA prevalence of 60 cases per 1,00,000 people exceeds the global average of 42. The scenario is worse than in African countries such as Nigeria and the Democratic Republic of Congo, where the prevalence ranges from 20 to 50. The researchers suggested testing for Aspergillus antibodies in patients who come with respiratory symptoms after completion of TB treatment to diagnose the cases early and treat them subsequently.

"This will help to decrease the morbidity and mortality due to this neglected and under-diagnosed disease in tea garden hospitals as well as other TB hospitals," they said. The researchers advised campaigns to train healthcare providers to recognise CPA symptoms and educate workers about respiratory health, nutrition, and hygiene.

In the context of nutrition, health experts pointed to a two-year-old study on epidemic dropsy published in the *Cureus Journal of Medical Science*.

Epidemic dropsy is caused by the consumption of edible oils contaminated with the oil from *Argemone mexicana*, a poppy of Mexican origin.

Flute-maker hopes Padma award will open up new avenues

Shubhomoy Sikdar
NARAYANPUR

Pandi Ram Mandavi

With weekdays immersed in creating wooden art forms, Sundays for Pandi Ram Mandavi is a time for rest. But this one, which coincides with Republic Day, is different. It has been spent answering a steady stream of congratulatory calls from across the country and beyond, on his humble feature phone.

Mr. Mandavi has been chosen for the Padma Shri, India's fourth-highest civilian award, for his contribution to the field of wood craftsmanship and is particularly known for popularising a specially designed flute. The 68-year-old began his love affair with the art at the tender age of 15.

The artist, whose works have travelled across India and beyond, feels the recognition will inspire others to take up the art. He says it will also create opportunities for existing artists in his village of Gadhbengal in Narayanpur district of Chhattisgarh and the larger Bastar region. "There are various forms of painting and terracotta art also in Gadhbengal and many more across Bastar. But most of us lack marketing skills and still struggle to find markets. I hope the recognition I have achieved helps others too," says Mr. Mandavi, who was born into a Gondi-speaking family from the Muriya tribe and learnt the woodwork from his father.

From wooden art that ranges from tiny combs to gigantic statues of Muria tribal men and women and even doors and pillars with engravings, it is the flute that earned Mr. Mandavi much recognition. "In the early 1990s, when it was being exhibited in Delhi, it caught the fancy of a group of visiting Japanese schoolchildren, each wanting to buy more than a piece. I realised its potential and over the years, I have lost count of the number of pieces I have sold," he says.

His flute differs from the traditional flute. Sound is produced by holding it in the hand like a wand and spinning it, a process that uses the air entering the long cylinder through a combination of three metallic washers stacked together at one end.

Cardiac surgeon who performed India's first coronary bypass surgery passes away

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

India's pre-eminent cardiac surgeon K.M. Cherian, who performed India's first coronary bypass surgery, died in Bengaluru on Saturday. He was 82.

His son, Sanjay Cherian, shared a note that said, "It is with profound grief that I inform you all that my beloved father, Dr. K.M. Cherian, passed away around 11:55 p.m. last night [January 25]. Dad and I had attended a wedding reception in Bengaluru and as we were leaving, he collapsed..." He also said that Dr. Cherian was rushed to Manipal Hospital where he was declared dead. The funeral will be held on January 30.

Only a couple of days ago was his autobiography, *Just an Instrument*, launched at the Kerala Literature Festival.

Born on March 8, 1942, in Kerala, Dr. Cherian worked for over 50 years in the field of cardiology, training under world-renowned leaders in the field. He was also credited with performing the first heart-lung transplant in India, the second cardiac transplant, and strangely, for a profession where people stick to their chosen specialisation, was also a pioneer in paediatric cardiac surgery. He set up Frontier Lifeline Hospital in Chennai and Frontier Mediville, a large medical science park on the outskirts of the city, to help spur research into indigenous cardiac valves and other technologies.

During the book launch in Kerala, Dr. Cherian said each surgeon should consider the patient part of his own family. Some of the experiences he shared on the occasion include how he performed heart surgeries on 20 Iraqi children and how he played the diplomat in the release of four Indian drivers who were imprisoned in Iraq. He went on to explain his association with Mother Teresa, upon whose request he performed a surgery on a poor boy in Kolkata at minimal cost.

After having completed his medical education in Kasturba Medical College, Manipal, he went on to teach in Christian Medical College, Vellore, before heading out to the far shores of Australia and New Zealand to train further in cardiac surgery. He chose to come back to India to serve the people and the country. In the 50-plus years he served in the field, he also had a term as honorary cardiac surgeon to the President and worked extensively with patients who came from foreign nations for treatment, and was awarded the Padma Shri.

DR. K.M. CHERIAN (1942 - 2025)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in a post in X, said, "Pained by the passing of Dr. K.M. Cherian, one of the most distinguished doctors of our country. His contribution to cardiology will always be monumental, not only saving many lives but also mentoring doctors of the future. His emphasis on technology and innovation always stood out. My thoughts are with his family and friends in this hour of grief."

Simple childhood

In his autobiography, Dr. Cherian recalled his simple childhood, from walking barefoot to school to playing marbles on the street with friends, and a love to don paint to participate in the tiger dance during Onam. He confessed to getting zero in mathematics in Class 5, but the school managed to give grace marks to all students as the exam was unusually tough.

K.R. Balakrishnan, chairman-cardiac sciences and director of the Institue of Heart and Lung Transplant and Mechanical Circulatory Support in MGM Healthcare, recalled coming to Chennai in November 1984 "fresh from training in Bombay". Dr. Cherian was a mentor, with whom he conducted experiments during his stint at the Railway Hospital. "We did exciting stuff at that time," he said.

"He has travelled all over the world, planning for Madras Medical Mission (MMM). When I was working in Auckland in New Zealand, he stayed with me almost a week, visiting hospitals. I was the first cardiac surgeon to work with him. This is before he became famous. He was instrumental in me getting a fellowship in the United States. He was very generous to young people who worked with him. His contributions to cardiac surgery in India are legendary."

Ajit Mullasari, director of cardiology at the Institute of Cardio-vascular diseases at the MMM, said his association with Dr. Cherian began in 1995 when he joined the hospital.

"The first bypass surgery, coronary artery bypass surgery, the heart transplantation in the private sector, a lot of paediatric surgeries were pioneering efforts in this country. He had a great vision of the future," he said. Dr. Cherian "believed standalone centres will have no dilution of cardiac care. Subsequently a lot of people followed. But he was always one step ahead," Dr. Mullasari said, adding: "He put effort into research, which usually doesn't happen in a private centre. He was pushing you to research, be it stem cell or lab work. He would push us to write and encourage us to present in international congresses."

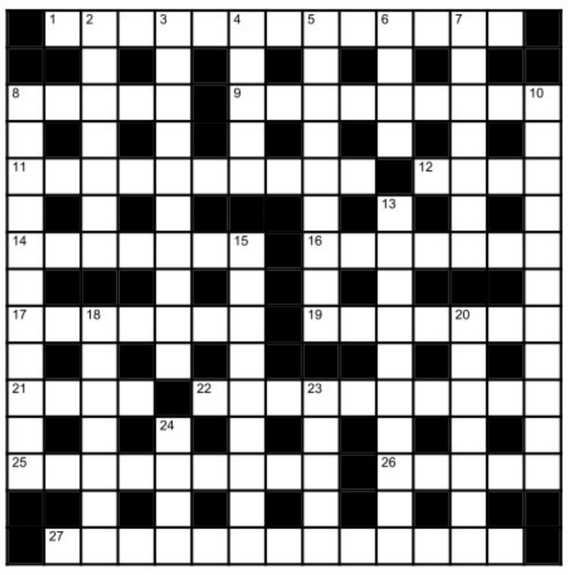
Sowmya Swaminathan, former chief scientist of World Health Organisation and chairperson of M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation, in her post on X, said, "Deeply saddened to hear of Dr. KM Cherian's passing. His memoir was just released and we had long conversations recently – about the future of innovation and health technology development in India. Certainly a source of inspiration to many, apart from the countless lives he saved! RIP."

TH CROSSWORD + 14392

(set by Dr. X)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Intoxicated babe runs over girl, stirring up emotions (6-7)
8 Wants new, versatile German player (5)
9 Sworn statement by American diva involved in argument in retreat (9)
11 See 10 Down
12 Censure fellow dumping conservative miss (4)
14 Student stands up to describe origin of oldest primates (7)
16 Republican actually about to break a law (7)
17 Pouring rum for exclusive circle (7)
19 Device used for strangulation by degenerate found in passage (7)
21 Express disapproval, start to unpack short skirt (4)
22 First-class chef's double corn salad (6,4)
25 Like a romantic dinner and dance? It'll rock (9)
26 Eventually removing clothes altogether (2,3)
27 Gulp with regret, so irritated about wife's fight for dominance (5,8)

Down

2 Device measuring electric current in programme, terrific (7)
3 Where one has a close shave as robber starts to plunder house desperately (10)
4 Singer at opera describing Greek muse (5)
5 Motive in killing is sickening (9)
6 Viewpoint of spiteful nationalist ignored (4)
7 Short fictional work by star captivates the Spanish lecturer (7)
8 Lose one's temper as party controlled by selfish European pulls out (2,9)
10 / 11 What matador might do to boldly tackle difficulty (4,3,4,2,3,5)
13 Insulting ignorant rogue suppressing fine female (10)
15 Posh models dancing close to Greek dramatist (9)
18 Become involved in attempt to hire English cast (3,4)
20 High after consuming ecstasy, couple of ladies reveal everything (4,3)
23 Check patient's butt bitten by animal (5)
24 Sheet of floating ice in stream, reportedly (4)

SUDOKU

3				4		6		
2			3					
	6			5			4	
1							2	8
			9		8			
6	2							9
	5			1			8	
					7			2
		9		6				5

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

P	A	S	S	E	R	B	Y		S	P	U	T	U	M
O		W		P		A		H		L		R		E
W	E	A	T	H	E	R		O	C	U	L	I	S	T
W		N		E		T		L		M		B		A
O	A	K	U	M		H	I	D	E	B	O	U	N	D
W		Y		E		E		O				T		A
			P	R	E	S	E	N	T	I	M	E	N	T
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T	H	A	T	S	F	O	R	S	U	R	E			
O		R				U		B		E		O		S
P	E	R	I	M	E	T	E	R		G	R	E	B	E
P		U		O		I		E		U		U		C
A	S	P	I	R	I	N		A	L	L	O	V	E	R
G		E		O		G		T		A		R		E
E	N	D	I	N	G		S	H	A	R	P	E	S	T

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

2	5	3	9	4	8	1	7	6
4	8	1	6	7	3	9	2	5
9	6	7	1	5	2	3	8	4
1	7	8	4	2	6	5	9	3
3	9	4	8	1	5	7	6	2
6	2	5	7	3	9	4	1	8
7	1	6	3	8	4	2	5	9
8	3	2	5	9	1	6	4	7
5	4	9	2	6	7	8	3	1

FAITH

Greatness of Ramanuja

Sri Vedanta Desika, in his work "Yathiraja Sapthathi," venerates and commends the nobility of acharya Sri Ramanuja, the founder of Visishtadvaita philosophy. Thirukkudandhai Dr. Venkatesh said in a discourse that Swamy Desika dedicated the first 10 slokas to invoking the blessings of various acharyas (Guru Parampara). He begins with Lord Narayana, who revealed the Vedas to the world and formulated Agama Sastras to be followed to worship Him. That Lord is the first Guru. For any good work like the performance of homas and yagnas, a person must do the same with his spouse, and then only the ritual will be complete. Lord has taken a resolve to protect us, and in that yagna of dharma, His divine consort, Goddess Lakshmi, remains always with Him. She comes next to the Lord. Then comes the chieftain of the celestials Vishwaksena. The Vedas have tried to reveal the qualities of God. The apostle Nammazhwar has given the essence of the Vedas through his work "Thiruvaimozhi" in Tamil, which is easily understandable. Swamy Desika pays his obeisance to Nammazhwar. Then, the acharyas Nathamuni, Uyyakkondar, and Manakkal Nambi are revered. After Peria Nambi, Swamy Desika starts praising the great acharya Sri Ramanuja..

Sri Ramanuja used to keep "*thridandam*" (a staff with three sticks). This symbolises the worship of Narayana through mind, word, and deed. He is the king of ascetics (Yathi Raja). He is the manifestation of the five divine weapons (panchayudha) of Lord Vishnu.

Swamy Desika praises Ramanuja as the central gem of the preceptor lineage, a priceless pendant.

Should you link your credit cards to UPI?

EASYPAY

Rohit Chhibbar

Since the integration of Rupay Credit Cards with UPI, a number of credit card issuers have launched Rupay variants of their popular cards, with some offering new cards on the Rupay network. Some card issuers have also started incentivising UPI payments with accelerated value-back.

Earlier, UPI transactions were limited to the funds available in your savings account. With the linking of credit cards with UPI, you can make UPI spends using the limit available on your credit card, eliminating the need to carry a physical card everywhere.

In addition to offering convenience of digital payments, this facility opens up more opportunities for cardholders to earn rewards and cashback. However, it also comes with the risk of overspending along with certain other downsides.

Let us begin with the advantages of adding your credit cards to UPI.

Value-back
Rewards are one of the most important advantages that credit cards have over debit cards. By linking RuPay credit cards to UPI, you can earn rewards or cashback on UPI transactions, allowing you to maximise benefits on everyday expenses like groceries, dining, or bill payments.

Of late, several UPI-focused credit cards have also been launched, which provide accelerated rewards or cashback on UPI spends. For example, HDFC UPI Rupay credit card offers up to 3% CashPoints on UPI transactions and IndusInd Bank Platinum Rupay Credit Card offers 2% rewards on UPI spends.

Rupay variants of other popular cards like Tata Neu Infinity HDFC credit card and Myntra Kotak credit card provide value-back on UPI transactions, though at the base rate.

Check caps
However, it is important for cardholders to check the capping and restrictions applicable on UPI transactions. For example, HDFC Moneyback Plus credit card caps the rewards on UPI spends at 500 points per month. Moreover, all small value transactions may not earn rewards. For instance, if the reward rate is 5 points per ₹200, transaction value below ₹200 will not fetch any reward points.

Convenience
Another major advantage of credit cards on UPI is wider acceptance. Making payment through credit cards could be a challenge at kirana stores and local shops as most of these do not have POS machines. By linking your credit card to UPI, you can make instant payments almost everywhere without the need for physical cards.

Easy credit access
Linking your credit card to UPI acts as a backup payment option, which allows you to make big-ticket purchases or make a sizeable payment in case of emergencies even if you have limited funds in your bank account.

While linking your credit card to UPI offers convenience and additional purchasing power, incurring several smaller transactions on your card may be difficult to track and could lead to overspending. Hence, like any other credit card, it is advisable to track your outstanding balance, before the dues become difficult to manage.

Adding your credit card to UPI can be quite beneficial if used wisely. It not only makes your transactions more convenient but also allows you to maximise credit card rewards and benefits. Evaluate your spending habits and select a credit card that best suits your lifestyle.

With responsible usage, you can effectively maximise the benefits of linking credit cards with UPI.

(The writer is chief business officer, credit cards, Paisabazaar)

Send queries on personal finance and investing to the moneywise@thehindu.co.in ID. Our experts in personal finance will respond to select queries, but will not give specific recommendations for investment in a particular mutual fund, share or fixed deposit.

Horns of dilemma: Term insurance is a pure risk cover with no returns. This leads to confusion about its utility. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

Why do Indian consumers ignore term insurance?

A term cover for life must be part of any prudent financial plan, especially during the income generating years of a family's breadwinners. But its adoption rate remains surprisingly low

TAKE COVER

Sarbvir Singh

In this world, nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes. Benjamin Franklin expressed the realities of life several centuries ago. Despite its inevitability, often we see untimely death leading to a family facing severe financial consequences.

Term insurance is the purest form of insurance, where for a relatively small premium, a very high cover (~500-600x) is available.

Term insurance needs to be part of any prudent financial plan especially during the income generating years of the family's breadwinners. Despite being one of the simplest and the most affordable life insurance product, its adoption rate remains surprisingly low.

Only 60-70 lakh Indians have term insurance plans and there too, the amount covered under term plan is mostly inadequate.

What stops India's middle class from buying term insurance cover?

Limited awareness
A large segment of the population is unaware of the benefits of term insurance. Insurance in India is largely a push product and often, sales advisors don't push term insurance as it has a lower ticket size than other insurance products. Given its relatively late introduction in the country, familiarity is low.

> Term insurance is seen as low priority after addressing essential expenses and loan repayments. Insurance premiums are often seen as an avoidable expense

No-returns bias
India is a price-sensitive market where any investment is linked to tangible future returns. It is a pure risk cover with no returns. This leads to confusion around its usefulness and consumers often end up choosing other products which have much lower coverage but some returns.

Low priority
Term insurance is seen as low priority after addressing essential expenses and loan repayments. For many middle-class households, immediate financial needs outweigh the importance of long-term protection. Insurance premiums are often seen as an avoidable expense.

Procrastination
The widespread belief of "I will do it later" is perhaps the biggest deterrent. Some think they're too young to obtain term insurance or perhaps too old?

The truth is this stems from an inherent optimism bias which leads people into assuming accidents, illnesses or untimely death won't hit them. This couldn't be further from the truth.

> The middle class must rethink their financial planning; bargaining long-term security for immediate gratification is neither a wise decision nor sustainable

In fact, purchasing term insurance early lets you lock your premium when you have a healthier and lower risk profile which translates to lower premiums for life. While a 30-year-old can obtain a ₹1 crore cover for ₹1,100, a 40-year-old will pay double the premium for the same coverage.

India's vast addressable market for term insurance lies in the middle – taxpayers without a safety net and families dependent on current incomes. The middle class must rethink their financial planning. Bargaining long-term security for immediate gratification is neither a wise decision nor sustainable.

Incentivise adoption
The deep-seated challenges require all stakeholders to work in tandem and create a conducive environment for consumers -

• Linking CIBIL score to term insurance. When you have a term plan, it signals that your liabilities, such as loans or outstanding debts, will be covered even in your absence. This assurance reduces the risk and positions you as 'good debt'. Linking term insurance ownership to show a stronger CIBIL score would be a great way to incentivise adoption.

• Expanding tax benefits, specifically for term insurance or offering premium subsidies, could help spur adoption. The recent discussion around removing or lowering the Goods and Services Tax (GST) rates on life and health insurance plans is welcome. It would be a further boost if a tax deduction can be granted only for term insurance under the new income tax regime.

• One major reason people hesitate to buy term insurance is the fear they'll keep paying premiums throughout their life, only for family's claim to be rejected after their death. To address this mistrust, the industry needs to talk more about claims paid and the stories of the families who benefitted from the product. Such an initiative would also reinforce the core purpose of term insurance – providing financial security and peace of mind to families.

Insurance is both a private purchase and a public good. It is also a selfless act as the benefits go to family members and society.

Governments have driven adoption in various sectors through many schemes and sops.

Applying similar strategies to term plans could make financial protection more universal.

(The writer is joint group CEO, PB Fintech)

An annual mutual fund ritual

THINKINVESTOR

You must typically rebalance your mutual fund nvestments every year to slash the risk of losing unrealised gains; this means you sell some units and take profit and reinvest the cash in bank deposits

Venkatesh Bangaruswamy

Previously, in this column, we discussed the cost of switching from a regular plan to a direct plan for your mutual fund (MF) investments. To complete the discussion, we look at the growth and income distribution cum capital withdrawal (IDCW) options offered by fund houses.

Reinvesting cashflows
The IDCW option was earlier called the dividend option. This option allows a MF the discretion to return a portion of the portfolio to unitholders. The portfolio, determined as the net asset value (NAV) per unit, consists of unitholders' capital invested, unrealised gains on stocks held, realised gains on stocks just sold and held as cash and dividend income earned on the stocks in the portfolio.

Suppose you invest in an equity fund to achieve a goal. You must earn a pre-determined compounded annual return on your investment to accumulate the amount required to achieve the goal. So, it is better to let investment in the fund compound annually. If you choose the IDCW option, you must find avenues to reinvest the cash flows received from the MF. The point is MF managers are better placed than us to find attractive avenues to reinvest. This makes the growth option better.

You must also consider the tax incidence of growth and IDCW options. Tax laws continually change. The principle is, however, simple. You pay taxes on growth option only when you sell your units. Also, given that you are investing to achieve your life goal, you are likely to hold the investment for more than one year. Long-term capital gains tax on equity is typically lower than your marginal tax rate. Therefore, if cash flows from IDCW continue to be taxed at your marginal tax rate, the growth option is tax efficient. But what if tax laws change and IDCW is tax exempt, as the dividend option was earlier? Then, IDCW would be efficient for taxable investors. But you must reinvest the cash flows. So, you could consider the IDCW reinvestment option, if available then.

Conclusion
Under the current tax laws, the direct plan growth option of an equity fund is optimal for goal-based investments. You must typically rebalance your mutual fund investments annually to reduce the risk of losing unrealised gains. This requires you to sell some units and take profits greater than your annual expected return in the fund, and reinvest the resultant cash flows into bank deposits.

(The author offers training programmes for individuals to manage their personal investments)

Personal Loans

Rates and Charges — Loan amount 5 lakh, Tenure 5 years — Loan amount 1 lakh, Tenure 5 years — (% of loan amount)

Name of Lender	Interest Rate (%)	EMI (Rs)	EMI (Rs)	Processing fee
HDFC Bank	10.85-24.00	10,834-14,384	2,167-2,877	Up to Rs 6,500
Tata Capital	11.99 onwards	11,120 onwards	2,224 onwards	Up to 5.5%
State Bank of India	11.45-14.85	10,984-11,856	2,197-2,371	NIL
ICICI Bank	10.85-16.65	10,834-12,332	2,167-2,466	Up to 2%
Bank of Baroda	11.05-18.75	10,884-12,902	2,177-2,580	Up to 2% (Maximum Rs 10,000)
Axis Bank	11.10-22.00	10,896-13,809	2,179-2,762	Up to 2%
Kotak Mahindra Bank	10.99-16.99	10,869-12,424	2,174-2,485	Up to 5%
Bank of India	10.85-16.20	10,834-12,212	2,167-2,442	Up to 1% (Minimum Rs 250 and Maximum Rs 10,000)
Canara Bank	10.95-16.40	10,859-12,266	2,172-2,453	Up to 0.50% (Maximum Rs 2,500)
Punjab National Bank	11.40-17.95	10,971-12,683	2,194-2,537	Up to 1%
HSBC Bank	10.15-16.00	10,660-12,159	2,132-2,432	Up to 2%
Federal Bank	11.49-14.49	10,994-11,762	2,199-2,352	Up to 3%
Union Bank of India	11.35-15.45	10,959-12,013	2,192-2,403	Up to 1% (Maximum Rs 7,500)
Bajaj Finserv	10.00-31.00	10,624-16,485	2,125-3,297	Up to 3.93%
Punjab & Sind Bank	11.25-14.00	10,934-11,634	2,187-2,327	0.50%-1%
South Indian Bank	12.85-20.60	11,338-13,414	2,268-2,683	Up to 2%
UCO Bank	12.45-12.85	11,236-11,338	2,247-2,268	Up to 1% (Minimum Rs 750)
IDFC First Bank	10.99 onwards	10,869 onwards	2,174 onwards	2%
Bank of Maharashtra	10.00-12.80	10,624-11,325	2,125-2,265	1% (Rs 1,000-Rs 10,000)
Karnataka Bank	13.68	11,551	2,310	Up to 2% (Min. Rs 2,500 & Max. Rs 8,500)
IndusInd Bank	10.49 onwards	10,744 onwards	2,149 onwards	Up to 3.5%

Car Loans

Rates and Charges — Loan amount 5 lakh, Tenure 5 years — (% of loan amount)

Name of Lender	Interest Rate (%)	EMI (Rs)	Processing fee
Union Bank of India	8.70 - 10.45	10,307 - 10,735	NIL
Punjab National Bank	8.75 - 10.60	10,319 - 10,772	Up to 0.25% (Rs. 1,000 - Rs. 1,500)
Bank of Baroda	9.00 - 12.70	10,379 - 11,300	Up to Rs 750
Bank of India	8.85 - 12.20	10,343 - 11,148	0.25% (Rs. 1,000 - Rs. 5,000)
UCO Bank	8.45 onwards	10,246 onwards	Nil
State Bank of India	9.10-10.15	10,403-10,660	NIL
Bank of Maharashtra*	8.70 - 13.00	10,307 - 11,377	NIL
Indian Overseas Bank**	8.65-9.85	10,294 - 10,587	0.50% (Rs 500 - Rs 5,000)
ICICI Bank	9.10 onwards	10,403 onwards	Up to 2%
HDFC Bank	9.20 onwards	10,428 onwards	Up to 1% (Rs 3,500 - Rs 9,000)
Karnataka Bank	9.13-11.61	10,411 - 11,024	Up to 0.50% (Rs 2500 - Rs 11,000)
Federal Bank	8.85 onwards	10,343 onwards	Rs 2,000 - Rs 4,500
Punjab and Sind Bank***	8.85 - 10.25	10,343 - 10,685	0.25% (Rs 1,000-Rs 15,000)
South Indian Bank	8.75 onwards	10,319 onwards	Rs. 1999
IDFC First Bank	9.99 onwards	10,621 onwards	Up to Rs 10,000
City Union Bank	14.45-14.95	11,751-11,882	1.25% (Min: Rs 1000)

*0.25% interest rate concession for existing housing loan borrowers and corporate salary account holders.
**0.50% interest rate concession to borrowers with credit scores of 800 and above. Interest rate concession of 0.25% to borrowers having credit scores of 750-799
***Concession of up to 50% on processing fee for PSB Apna Vahan Sugam.

Rates and charges as on January 22 — **Source: Paisabazaar.com**

KABUL

Iran and Afghanistan call for better ties during high-level Kabul talks

REUTERS

Iran and Afghanistan called for increased cooperation during a trip to Kabul by Tehran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi on Sunday, the highest-level Iranian official to visit the Afghan capital since the Taliban's takeover in 2021. Mr. Araghchi met his Afghan counterpart, Amir Khan Muttaqi, and Taliban Prime Minister Hassan Akhund. AFP

MINSK

Belarus President Lukashenko wins polls with 87.6% of the vote

REUTERS

Belarus's autocrat leader Alexander Lukashenko, in power since 1994, won a re-election that saw no real competition, a state exit poll said on Sunday . The Moscow-aligned Mr. Lukashenko won a seventh consecutive term with 87.6% of the vote. All of the 70-year-old's meaningful opponents are in prison or in exile. AFP

SEOUL

North Korea tests sea-to-surface strategic guided cruise missile

AP

North Korea has test-fired sea-to-surface strategic guided cruise missiles, state news agency KCNA reported Sunday, adding that the weapons "precisely" hit their targets. The missiles hit their marks after travelling along the 1,500-km elliptical and figure-eight orbits. North Korean leader Kim Jong Un oversaw Saturday's test. AFP

SEOUL

South Korean president indicted as 'ringleader of an insurrection'

REUTERS

South Korean prosecutors indicted impeached President Yoon Suk Yeol for being the "ringleader of an insurrection" after his abortive declaration of martial law, ordering the suspended leader to remain in detention. The move was widely expected after a court twice rejected requests by prosecutors to extend his arrest warrant. AFP

Palestine President condemns 'any projects' to displace citizens of Gaza

We will not allow the repetition of the catastrophes that befell our people in 1948 and 1967, says Mahmud Abbas; Trump had said that he wanted Jordan and Egypt to take Palestinians from Gaza, suggesting 'we just clean out that whole thing'

Agence France-Presse
RAMALLAH

Palestinian President Mahmud Abbas condemned on Sunday "any projects" to relocate the people of Gaza outside the territory, after U.S. President Donald Trump suggested moving them to Egypt and Jordan.

Without naming the U.S. leader, Mr. Abbas "expressed strong rejection and condemnation of any projects aimed at displacing our people from the Gaza Strip", a statement from his office said, adding that the Palestinian people "will not abandon their land and holy sites".

Anticipated moment: Displaced Palestinians wait to return to their homes in the northern part of the Gaza Strip on Sunday. AP

Mr. Trump, less than a week into his second term as President, said on Saturday that he wanted Jordan and Egypt to take Palestinians from Gaza, suggesting "we just clean out that whole thing".

The idea was swiftly rejected by Jordan, while Egypt has previously spoken out against any suggestions that Gazans could be moved there.

In the statement issued by the Palestinian presidency, based in the occupied West Bank, Mr. Abbas said: "We will not allow the repetition of the catastrophes that befell our people in 1948 and 1967."

The former is known to Palestinians as the Nakba, or "catastrophe", when hundreds of thousands were displaced during the war the coincided with Israel's establishment. The 1967 Arab-Israeli war, during which Israel conquered Gaza and the West Bank, is known as the Naksa, or "setback", and saw several hundred thousand more displaced from those territories.

Mr. Abbas also rejected what he called "any policy that undermines the unity of the Palestinian land in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including east Jerusalem".

He called on Mr. Trump to "continue his efforts to support" the ceasefire in Gaza that began on January 19 and said the Palestinian Authority remained ready to take on the governance of the war-battered territory.

Israel kills 22 in Lebanon ahead of deadline for troop pull-out

Agence France-Presse
BURJ AL MULUK

Israeli Army fire killed 22 people in south Lebanon on Sunday including a soldier, health officials said, as residents tried to return home on the day Israel was meant to withdraw under a truce deal.

The withdrawal deadline is part of a ceasefire agreement reached two months ago that ended Israel's war with Iran-backed Hezbollah, which had left the Lebanese militant group weakened.

Terms of deal

The deal that took effect on November 27 said the Lebanese Army was to deploy alongside UN peacekeepers in the south as the Israeli Army withdrew over a 60-day period that ends on Sunday.

Keeping vigil: The withdrawal deadline is part of a truce reached two months ago that ended Israel's war with Hezbollah. REUTERS

The parties have traded blame for the delay in implementing the agreement, and on Friday Israel said it would keep troops across the border in south Lebanon beyond the pull-out date.

Lebanon's Health Ministry said on Sunday that Israeli forces opened fire on "citizens who were trying to return to their villages that are still under (Israeli) occupation".

It said 22 residents and a soldier were killed and 124 more wounded.

Russia says captured east Ukrainian town of Velyka Novosilka

Agence France-Presse
MOSCOW

Russia on Sunday said its forces had captured the east Ukrainian town of Velyka Novosilka in the embattled Donetsk region, almost three years into their offensive.

Russia has made steady advances on the battlefield in eastern Ukraine for months.

Moscow's Defence Ministry said Russian troops led "active offensive actions" and "liberated the settlement of Velyka Novosilka", which lies in the west of the Donetsk region.

The town lies in the west of the Donetsk region and is close to the southern front line in Ukraine

Velyka Novosilka is close to the southern front line in Ukraine – which has remained largely static but where fears of a fresh Russian offensive have risen for weeks. Both sides have raced to gain an advantage in the almost three-year as Donald Trump – who has vowed to hold talks to end the conflict – returns to the White House.

Rebels close in on key Congo city as 13 officials killed and thousands displaced

Associated Press
GOMA

The international airport in Goma was evacuated and commercial flights temporarily grounded on Sunday as fighting between Rwanda-backed rebels and government forces raged around eastern Congo's key city, leaving at least 13 peacekeepers and foreign soldiers dead and displacing thousands of civilians.

The M23 rebel group has made significant territorial gains along the border with Rwanda in recent weeks, closing in on Goma, the provincial capital that has a population of around 2 million and is a regional hub for security and humanitarian efforts.

Running for cover: People displaced by the fighting with M23 rebels make their way to the centre of Goma on Sunday. AP

Goma's international airport, which is the east of the city, was evacuated by the military and commercial flights were temporarily grounded due to fighting, an airport agent said.

The United Nations on Sunday told its staff not to go to the airport and to shelter in place.

Congo, the United States and UN experts accuse Rwanda of backing M23, which is mainly made up of ethnic Tutsis who broke away from the Congolese Army more than a decade ago. It's one of about 100 armed groups that have been vying for a foothold in the mineral-rich region, where a long-running conflict has created one of the world's largest humanitarian crises.

The Congolese Foreign Ministry said late Saturday it was severing diplomatic ties with Rwanda.

27 Nigerian soldiers killed in jihadist suicide attack: Army

Agence France-Presse
KANO

At least 27 Nigerian soldiers were killed in a jihadist suicide attack in the northeast, two Army sources said on Sunday.

On Friday, troops launched a ground offensive on a stronghold of Islamic State-affiliated militants in a wasteland straddling Borno and Yobe states.

"The suicide attack killed 27 soldiers, including the commander, and left several others seriously injured," a military officer said, making this one of the deadliest suicide attacks targeting soldiers in recent years.

Tanker blast

Meanwhile, 18 persons were killed in a truck accident in south-eastern Nigeria, a week after a petrol tanker explosion left at least 98 dead. Those killed had been burnt "beyond recognition".

"The tanker, which was loaded with premium motor spirit, experienced break failure and the driver lost grip of the wheels before crashing" into 17 other vehicles, sparking a fire.

Sport

Champions Way for feature event

HYDERABAD: The Bengaluru-based Champions Way, who is in good shape, may score over his rivals in the Qutab Shahi Million, the feature event of Monday's (Jan. 27) races.

1 SAROORNAGAR PLATE (Div. III) (1,200m), 4-y-o and upward, rated upto 25 – 1.15 p.m.: 1. Glimmer Of Hope (7) Gaurav 62, 2. Nav Lakhaa (5) Surya Prakash 62, 3. Reining Queen (6) P. Ajeeth K 62, 4. My Brother (2) R.S. Jodha 60, 5. Hoping Wind (3) Shivansh 59.5, 6. Shubrak (4) Deepak 58.5, 7. Fortune Art (1) G. Naresh 54 and 8. Protocol (8) B. Nikhil 50.5.

1. REINING QUEEN, 2. GLIMMER OF HOPE, 3. HOPING WIND

2 SAROORNAGAR PLATE (Div. II) (1,200m), 4-y-o and upward, rated upto 25 (Cat. III) – 1.45: 1. Country's Maximus (1) H.M. Akshay 62, 2. Hoping King (3) Shivansh 62, 3. Prince (8) R.S. Jodha 62, 4. Hawk Wing (6) Neeraj 61.5, 5. Sadiya (5) Deepak 60.5, 6. Tupac (2) A.A. Vikrant 59, 7. Deccan Ranger (7) Uday Kiran 56.5 and 8. Blue Brigade (4) Kuldeep Sr. 52.

1. HAWK WING, 2. COUNTRY'S MAXIMUS, 3. BLUE BRIGADE

3 KAMAREDDY CUP (1,800m), 4-y-o and upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III) – 2-15: 1. Miss Marvellous (10) Saqlain 60, 2. Das (3) Deepak 59, 3. Skyward (7) Gaurav 58.5, 4. Black Dust (5) P. Sai K 56.5, 5. Caraxes (6) Mukesh 56, 6. Peppi (4) Ashad Asbar 55.5, 7. Federer (9) P. Ajeeth K 54, 8. Exclusive Spark (2) Santosh Raj 52.5, 9. Rani Ruckus (8) B. Nikhil 51.5 and 10. Wandring Warrior (1) Rafique Sk. 51.

1. MISS MARVELLOUS, 2. PEPPI, 3. SKYWARD

4 VEGAVATHI CUP (1,600m), 6-y-o and upward, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II) – 2.50: 1. Yesterday (9) Surya Prakash 60, 2. Kings Best (5) Gaurav 59, 3. First Class (7) Mukesh 57.5, 4. Lady Danger (2) B. Nikhil 56.5, 5. N R I Ultrapower (6) Abhay Singh 55.5, 6. Sun Dancer (3) Afroz K 55, 7. Just Incredible (1) Kuldeep Sr. 54.5, 8. Ampere's Touch (13) Neeraj 53.5, 9. China Town (4) P. Ajeeth K 53.5, 10. Divine Destiny (10) Ashad Asbar 53.5, 11. Alpine Girl (12) Santosh Raj 52.5, 12. Role Model (8) Md. Ekram 52.5 and 13. Shah Of Iran (11) P. Sai K 52.

1. FIRST CLASS, 2. JUST INCREDIBLE, 3. CHINA TOWN

5 JANGAON PLATE (1,200m), 4-y-o and upward, rated 40 to 65 – 3.25: 1. Amyra (11) Afroz K 61.5, 2. Dyanoosh (7) Deepak 61.5, 3. Calista Girl (12) Gaurav 60.5, 4. Warwick (9) P. Ajeeth K 58.5, 5. Glorious Power (4) Saqlain 58, 6. Sangreal (10) P. Sai K 57, 7. Briar Ridge (6) Kuldeep Sr. 55.5, 8. Deccan Spirit (2) Mukesh 55, 9. Shadow Fax (1) Santosh Raj 55, 10. Star Forever (5) G. Naresh 55, 11. Toffee (13) Md. Ekram 54.5, 12. Ariette (3) Neeraj 53.5 and 13. Exclusive Black (8) Md. Ismail 52.

1. ARIETTE, 2. AMYRA, 3 . CALISTA GIRL

6 ROCK HEAVEN PLATE (1,400m), rated 80 and above – 4.00: 1. Huntingdon (3) Saqlain 62, 2. Black Onyx (2) B. Nikhil 60.5, 3. Alexina (5) G. Naresh 58, 4. Hugh Capet (7) Akshay K 58, 5. N R I Doublepower (4) Kuldeep Sr. 56.5, 6. Last Wish (9) Ashad Asbar 56, 7. N R I Superpower (1) A. Prakash 56, 8. Proud Mary (6) Gaurav 56 and 9. True Icon (8) P. Ajeeth K 50.

1. HUGH CAPET, 2. HUNTINGDON, 3. N R I SUPERPOWER

7 QUTAB SHAHI MILLION (1,600m) (terms), 4-y-o and upward – 4.35: 1. Yukan (3) Akshay K 59.5, 2. Champions Way (6) Suraj Narredu 58.5, 3. High Command (4) Ashad Asbar 58, 4. Priceless Gold (5) A.A. Vikrant 58, 5. Truth (2) Kuldeep Sr. 58, 6. Siddharth (7) Mukesh 53.5 and 7. Shadow Of The Moon (1) Saqlain 53.

1. CHAMPIONS WAY, 2. HIGH COMMAND, 3. TRUTH

8 SAROORNAGAR PLATE (Div. I) (1,200m), 4-y-o and upward, rated upto 25 (Cat. III) – 5.10: 1. Balahaka (6) P. Sai K 62, 2. Hoping High (1) Shivansh 62, 3. Niloufer The Great (5) P. Ajeeth K 62, 4. Lady Jane (3) Md. Ekram 61.5, 5. Most Beautiful (4) Mukesh 61, 6. Taaliyah (8) Deepak 60.5, 7. Lucky Fiero (7) Kuldeep Sr. 8. Bien Pensant (2) Surya Prakash 54.5 and 9. Zidane (9) Rafique Sk. 50.

1. BALAHAKA, 2. HOPING HIGH, 3. LUCKY FIERO

Day's best: Hugh Capet.

Jackpot: 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8.

Mini Jackpot: (i) 2, 3, 4 & 5; (ii) 5, 6, 7 & 8.

Treble: (i) 1, 2 & 3; (ii) 3, 4 & 5; (iii) 6, 7 & 8.

Tanala: All races.

Ranquelino wins HPSL Bangalore Derby, completes hat-trick

BENGALURU: Darius Byramji-trained Ranquelino (Sandesh up) won the HPSL Bangalore Derby (2,400m), the stellar attraction of the races held here on Sunday (Jan. 26).

The winner is owned by M/s. Manjri Horse Breed Farm rep. by Mr. Pallon S. Mistry, Mr. Mukul A. Sonawala, Mr. Kishore M. Dingra, M/s. DT Racing & Breeding LLP, Mr. S.R. Sanas and Mr. Ashok Ranpise.

Sandesh, racing third for a while, settled into the fourth spot till the bend before manoeuvring his mount from the outside in the home stretch.

Ranquelino started galloping with giant strides, overtaking leader Redefined in the last 400m to complete a hat-trick of wins.

THE RESULTS:

1. SADDLE UP CUP (1,200m): ELVEDEN (Aleemuddin) 1, Legendary Impact (Akshay K) 2, Master Victory (A. Prakash) 3 and Southern Warrior (Afsar) 4. 4-3/4, 1-1/2 and 1-1/2. 1m 14.16s. ₹17 (w), 11, 13 and 22 (p), SHP: 35, THP: 48, FP: 39, Q: 23, Trinella: 167/119, Exacta: 3,280/2,343. Favourite: Elveden.

Owners: Sarainaga Racing Pvt Ltd, Mr. Haider Soomar, Mr. Gaurav Gopalkrishan Sethi & Mr. Abhimanyu J. Thackersey. Trainer: Arjun Mangalorkar.

2. C. NARAYANA REDDY MEMORIAL MILLION (1,400m): MOUNTAIN JEWEL (Akshay K) 1, Glorious Strides (Vinod Shinde) 2, Lightning Blitz (Suraj) 3 and Alamgir (L.A. Rozario) 4. 2-1/4, 1-3/4 and 1-1/4. 1m 25.50s. ₹20 (w), 11, 96 and 22 (p), SHP: 390, THP: 52, FP: 1,492, Q: 871, Trinella: 10,847/2,324, Exacta: 81,925/17,555. Favourite: Mountain Jewel.

Moment to savour: Suresh Paladugu, Chairman and Director, HPSL, and BTC chairman R. Manjunath Ramesh present the HPSL Bangalore Derby Trophy to the owners of Ranquelino — Ashok Ranpise (third from right), S.R. Sanas (second from right), Dilip Thacker (third from left), Kishore M. Dingra (second from left) — in Bengaluru on Sunday. Trainer Darius R. Byramji (left) and jockey A. Sandesh (right) are also seen. K. MURALI KUMAR

Owners: M/s. Rapar Galloping Stars LLP & Mr. K. Kaliyaperumal. Trainer: Prasanna Kumar.

3. MYSORE RACE CLUB CUP (1,600m): MAYNE MAGIC (P. Sai Kumar) 1, Elfin Knight (Sandesh) 2, Emphatic (David Allan) 3 and Live The Dream (Akshay K) 4. Not run: Inspire. 3/4, Nk and 3/4. 1m 37.69s. ₹39 (w), 14, 10 and 13 (p), SHP: 27, THP: 39, FP: 74, Q: 36, Trinella: 161/93, Exacta: 412/212. Favourite: Elfin Knight.

Owners: Mr. Eugene Aloysious Mayne & Mrs. Joan Mayne. Trainer: Kishan Thomas.

4. STEWARDS GOLD CUP (1,200m): ROMAN SPIRIT (Trevor) 1, Metzinger (S. Saqlain) 2, Instructor (Ashhad Asbar) 3 and Lone Ranger (Sandesh) 4. 3/4, Lnk and 2. 1m 12.25s. ₹29 (w), 13, 35 and 13 (p), SHP: 119, THP: 51, FP: 249, Q: 310, Trinella: 865/370, Exacta: 3,448/806. Favourite: Lone Ranger.

Owner: Dr. M.A.M. Ramaswamy Chettiar of Chettinad Charitable Trust. Trainer: S. Dominic.

5. A.R. TROPHY (1,400m): VIVALDO (Trevor) 1, Bharat (G. Vivek) 2, Victoria Doresaani (L.A. Rozario) 3 and Irish Coffee (Darshan) 4. 1-3/4, 1-1/2 and 3-1/2. 1m 25.28s. ₹53 (w), 16, 21 and 22 (p), SHP: 55, THP: 61, FP: 341, Q: 168, Trinella: 1,797/876, Exacta: 2,2586/14,520. Favourite: Bourbonaire.

Owners: Mrs. Gaja Manoj & Mr. K. Manoj Kumar. Trainer: Prasanna Kumar.

6. HPSL BANGALORE DERBY (2,400m): RANQUELINO (Fierro-Sunset) Sandesh 1, Redefined (Phoenix Tower-Symi) Akshay K 2, Mansa Musa (Cougar Mountain-Laserre) Trevor 3 and Mandarino (Moonlight Magic-Mandara) L.A. Rozario 4. 4-1/2, 3-1/2 and Nk. 2m 29.87s. ₹39 (w), 15, 13 and 24 (p), SHP: 33, THP: 62, FP: 79, Q: 40, Trinella: 320/183, Exacta: 1,283/399. Favourite: Redefined.

Owners: Manjri Horse Breed Farm rep. by Mr. Pallon S. Mistry, Mr. Mukul A. Sonawala, Mr. Kishore M. Dingra, M/s. DT Racing & Breeding LLP, Mr. S.R. Sanas & Mr. Ashok Ranpise. Trainer: Darius Byramji.

7. INDIAN REPUBLIC CUP (Div. I), (1,200m): PERFECT LEGEND (Ashhad Asbar) 1, Windcleaver (Dhanu S) 2, Anzac Parade (Trevor) 3 and Adamas (Aleemuddin) 4. 6-1/4, 1-1/2 and 1. 1m 12.34s. ₹26 (w), 11, 29 and 16 (p), SHP: 76, THP: 53, FP: 589, Q: 555, Trinella: 1,905/927, Exacta: 32,326/20,781. Favourite: Lockheed.

Owner: Mr. B.E. Vasanth Kumar. Trainer: Warren Singh.

8. INDIAN REPUBLIC CUP (Div. II), (1,200m): DR ASH (Mark) 1, Felisa (L.A. Rozario) 2, Gismo (P. Mani) 3 and Royal Deccan (Aleemuddin) 4. 3-1/4, 2-1/4 and 2-1/4. 1m 13.72s. ₹155 (w), 29, 17 and 12 (p), SHP: 35, THP: 41, FP: 770, Q: 193, Trinella: 1,510/647, Exacta: 2,473/824. Favourite: Gismo.

Owner: Mrs. Rohini Thuppal. Trainer: G.Y. Rajesh Babu.

Jackpot: ₹86,878 (10 tkts); Runner-up: 972 (383 tkts); Treble (i): 919 (17 tkts); (ii): 2,946 (eight tkts).

TOO GOOD

Sinner is the best player in the world by far, says Zverev

AFP

"It hurts to be standing next to this thing (trophy) and not being able to touch it," said Alexander Zverev after losing the final. "But congratulations to Jannik. You're the best player in the world by far." Zverev has lost 13 times to a top-five opponent at a Slam, with his only win coming against Carlos Alcaraz in Melbourne last year.

MILESTONE

Siniakova clinches 10th Grand Slam women's doubles crown

REUTERS

Czech Republic's Katerina Siniakova, right, won her 10th Grand Slam women's doubles title on Sunday when she and American partner Taylor Townsend clinched the Australian Open crown. The top seeds and reigning Wimbledon champions downed Chinese Taipei's Hsieh Su-wei and Latvian Jelena Ostapenko 6-2, 6-7(4), 6-3.

DREAM RUN

Tilak sets world record during knock against England

R. RAGU

Tilak Varma set a new world record during his unbeaten 72 against England in the second T20I in Chennai. The 22-year-old has scored 318 runs in T20Is without being dismissed and went past New Zealand batter Mark Chapman's record of 271 runs between dismissals set in 2023.

ON A ROLL

India cruises past Bangladesh, continues merry run in U-19 WC

X@BCCIWOMEN

Reigning champion India continued its dominant run in the ICC Women's U-19 World Cup with an eight-wicket win over Bangladesh in its Super Six encounter in Kuala Lumpur on Sunday.
The scores: Bangladesh 64/8 in 20 overs (Vaishnavi Sharma 3/15) lost to India 66/2 in 7.1 overs (Trisha Gongadi 40). **PoM:** Vaishnavi.

SNAPSHOTS

City downs Chelsea

MANCHESTER: Erling Haaland inspired a Manchester City fightback from 0-1 down to beat Chelsea 3-1 and move into the Premier League top four at the Blues' expense on Saturday.

Top results: Premier League: Manchester City 3 (Gvardiol 42, Haaland 68, Foden 87) bt Chelsea 1 (Madueke 3); Crystal Palace 1 (Esse 85) lost to Brentford 2 (Mbeumo 66-pen, Schade 80); Tottenham 1 (Richarlison 33) lost to Leicester 2 (Vardy 46, El Khannouss 50).

LaLiga: Sevilla 1 (Bade 61) drew with Espanyol 1 (Kumbulla 15); Valladolid 0 lost to Real Madrid 3 (Mbappe 30, 57, 90+1-pen); Rayo Vallecano 2 (Nteka 80, 83) bt Girona 1 (Gil 58).

Serie A: Napoli 2 (Anguissa 57, Lukaku 69-pen) bt Juventus 1 (Kolo Muani 43); Udinese 1 (Lucca 38) lost to Roma 2 (Pellegrini 50-pen, Dovbyk 65-pen).

Gukesh takes joint lead

WIJK AAN ZEE: D. Gukesh moved into joint lead at the Tata Steel Masters, outplaying his World championship second P. Harikrishna in the seventh round. It was Gukesh's third win and put him on course for his maiden title here as he shared the lead with R. Praggnanandhaa and Nodirbek Abdusattorov (five points).

Top results: D. Gukesh (Ind, 5) bt P. Harikrishna (3.5); Wei Yi (Chn, 3.5) drew with Leon Luke Mendonca (Ind, 1.5); Max Warmerdam (Ned, 3.5) bt Arjun Erigaisi (Ind, 1.5); Jorden van Foreest (Ned, 2.5) drew with R. Praggnanandhaa (Ind, 5); Anish Giri (Ned, 3) drew with Nodirbek Abdusattorov (Uzb, 5).

Challengers: R. Vaishali (Ind, 4) drew with Benjamin Bok (Ned, 4); Miaoyi Lu (Chn, 4.5) beat Divya Deshmukh (Ind, 1.5); Faustino Oro (Arg, 2.5) lost to Nguyen Thai Dai Van (Cze, 5); Erwin L'Ami (Ned, 5) drew with Aydin Suleymanli (Aze, 3).

Ice-cool Sinner towers over Zverev, retains title

The World No. 1 becomes the first Italian — man or woman — to win three Grand Slams; Zverev's long wait for a maiden Major continues, falling short once again in his third big final

AUSTRALIAN OPEN

Agence France-Presse
MELBOURNE

A clinical Jannik Sinner swept past Alexander Zverev to retain his Australian Open title on Sunday and cement his status as the world's dominant player in men's tennis.

The 23-year-old Italian came through a tense final between the two highest-ranked players 6-3, 7-6(4), 6-3 on Rod Laver Arena, raising his arms in the air and looking to the sky in celebration.

In doing so he became the first Italian, man or woman, to win three Grand Slams, surpassing Nicola Pietrangeli.

In elite company

The emphatic victory also thrust him alongside Andre Agassi, Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic as the only men to successfully defend their Melbourne Park titles this century.

But it proved more misery for Germany's Zverev, who remains one of the world's best players never to taste Grand Slam glory, falling short once again in his third big final.

"We worked a lot to be again in this position. It's an amazing feeling to share this moment with all of you," Sinner said, referring to his coaching team.

He also had words of consolation for Zverev.

"A tough day for you. You're an amazing player. Keep believing in yourself because I think we, all the players, and the coaches, whoever is involved in the sport, know how strong you are, not only as a player, but also as a person.

"So keep it up. Keep working hard because we all believe that you can lift one of these very, very soon."

Ice-cool Sinner proved to be a tower of mental strength again in Australia, with his defence coming against the backdrop of an ongoing doping case after he twice tested positive for traces of the steroid clostebol last year.

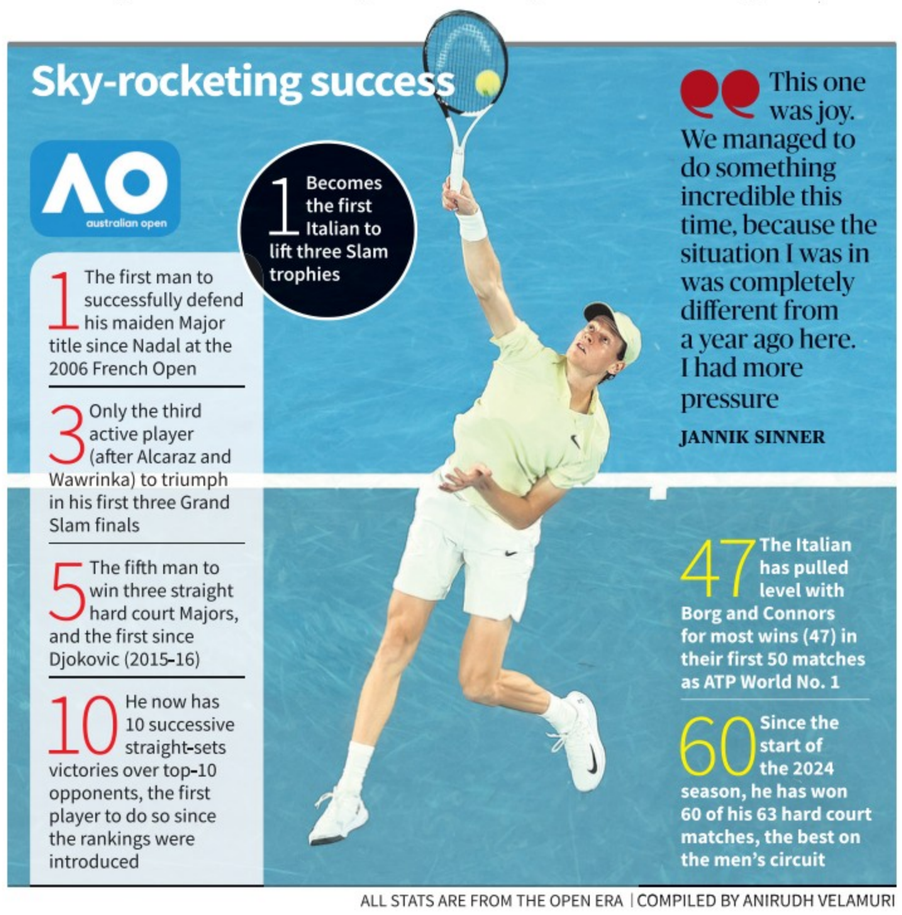
Behind the scenes

Hanging over his head has been a World Anti-Doping Agency appeal against his exoneration, with the global body seeking a long ban. He denies knowingly doping.

A hearing is scheduled at the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) for April.

He cast all the worries aside to notch a 19th career title and extend his incredible winning streak to 21 matches.

Last year Sinner needed five sets to tame Daniil Medvedev and win his first Grand Slam, but it never looked like going the distance this time.



ALL STATS ARE FROM THE OPEN ERA | COMPILED BY ANIRUDH VELAMURI

Tilak's modus operandi — targeting England's best

Productive shot: Tilak used the pull to good effect in the second T20I. R. RAGU

S. Dipak Ragav
CHENNAI

In cricket, transitions from one era to another are often tricky and involve a phase during which the new crop takes time to grow.

India, though, has been lucky in that regard in T20 cricket. The youngsters have found their feet and comfortably filled the shoes left by Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, and Ravindra Jadeja, all of whom exited the scene after winning last year's World Cup.

Tilak Varma is one such player from the next-gen who has made a telling impact in a short time at the crucial No. 3 spot.

His last four scores in T20Is reads as 107 not out, 120 not out, 19 not out and 72 not out.

The most recent one, which came against England on Saturday here at the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium, could be one of the best knocks he has played in his brief career so far.

Tilak showed bravery in taking on England's pace spearhead, Jofra Archer, and did so with conviction by making the requisite technical adjustments.

"If you see, I want to target their best bowlers," said Tilak. "If you take on their best bowlers, the others will be under pressure. So, even when the wickets were falling, I wanted to do that as it is easier for the (batter) at the other end."

"I backed myself and took chances against him. Whatever shots I have scored for Archer, I have worked in the nets. Mentally, I was ready for that. So, it has given me a good result," he explained.

The left-handed batter smashed Archer for 30 runs, including four sixes, off just nine balls.

On a day when the pull shot proved to be the undoing of batters from both sides because the ball held off the surface, Tilak gave insights into how he executed it so well and was the most assured batter out in the park.

"They were consistently bowling short, and Archer and (Mark) Wood were bowling 150kph, I think. With that pace, I think it will be slightly tougher if you want to hit it square of the wicket. So, I wanted to use the pace and hit it behind (fine) as much. That's what I have done, and it has given me success."

Another striking aspect of his innings was how seamlessly he switched gears, attacking when needed but also being circumspect at times.

"That is what I discussed with Gautam sir in the last match. He said that 'you can score at over 10 (an over) and below that also. When the team requires, you should be flexible,'" said the Hyderabad-born player.

"During the drinks break, he said that 'this is the time you can show people you can play both (ways)'. I said whatever happens, I will stay till the end and finish the game."

Rutuja ensures Odisha Warriors gets its name engraved on glitzy trophy

HIL

Santadeep Dey
RANCHI

The 5,000-seater Marang Gomke Jaipal Singh Stadium here was packed to the rafters on Sunday to witness history unfold as Odisha Warriors took on JSW Soorma Hockey Club in the summit clash of the inaugural season of the only commercial women's hockey league in the world.

The teams didn't disappoint, trading blows in equal measure, but it was eventually Rutuja Pisal who ensured Warriors got their name engraved on the glitzy Women's Hockey India League trophy with a thrilling 2-1 win.

Neha Goyal, the winning captain, was the first to find an opening through the left, linking up with Freeke Moes at the baseline.

However, the latter was denied by Soorma's defence.

Soorma's Charlotte Englebert spent five minutes of the first quarter on the naughty step after clattering into Victoria Sauze. Ishika Chaudhary, looking to take advantage, hovered atop the dotted line but wasn't able to test Savita Punia.

In the 13th minute, Neha was in the thick of things again, slithering into the circle before passing the baton to Rutuja. Maria Verschoor had to jump into action on that occasion to keep the ball out.

However, Rutuja couldn't be warded off for long. Sauze's lightning-quick swipe found a lucky deflection off Vaishnavi Phalke's stick before the 22-year-old lobbed it over Savita.

As the trend this season, Soorma made a meal out of the first penalty corner, but when the second opportunity came about, Penny Squib stepped up to the plate with an angry drive.

Jude Menezes' girls stepped on the gas in the second half, threatening to take the lead on a couple of occasions. But instead it was Rutuja who broke the deadlock when Englebert lost possession inside her circle.

The result: Odisha Warriors 2 (Rutuja 20 & 56) bt JSW Soorma Hockey Club 1 (Squibb 28).

All smiles: Warriors players and support staff savour their triumph. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

Manush proves too strong for Payas; Diya stuns Sreeja to emerge champion

Amol Karhadkar
SURAT

Manush Shah and Diya Chitale joined the elite list of men's and women's national champions after outclassing Payas Jain and top seed Sreeja Akula in the singles finals of the 86th senior table tennis championship, which concluded at the Pandit Dindayal Upadhyay Indoor Stadium on Sunday.

Manush, the bespectacled southpaw who hails from Vadodara – not too far from the diamond city, but representing his employer Reserve Bank of India (RBI) – continued his clinical run to overcome Payas in five games in the best-of-seven final.

An hour earlier, Mumbai's Diya, also representing RBI, bounced back after trailing 2-0 against hot favourite Sreeja – India's top-ranked international paddler – and won a thrilling women's final that turned out to be the longest match of the final day's proceedings.

The singles win meant Diya finished the tournament with a double crown, having clinched the doubles crown on Saturday.

Both Manush and Diya took home a kitty of ₹3.20 lakh each. But more than the purse, it was the glittering trophy that the duo was thrilled with. After all, having been crowned sub-junior, junior and youth national champions in their formative years, both the stylish paddlers were ecstatic to have laid their hands on the trophy that they had their eyes on for a decade.

Manush continued from where he had left off during his 4-0 drubbing of the in-form Ankur Bhattacharjee in the semifinal and gave Payas little chance by combining his power and angles to precision. Diya, on the other hand, changed her gameplan midway through the match and started using her backhand topspin more effectively to put Sreeja under pressure.

Thrilled: Manush and Diya ecstatic after laying their hands on the trophy they had their eyes on for a decade. AMOL KARHADKAR

The results: Men: Final: 3-Manush Shah (RBI) bt 8-Payas Jain (Del) 10-12, 11-6, 11-6, 12-10, 11-8; **Semifinals:** Payas bt Divyansh Srivastava (UP) 11-9, 11-8, 11-8, 11-7; Manush bt 2-Ankur Bhattacharjee (PSPB) 13-11, 11-4, 11-9, 12-10.

Women: Final: 7-Diya Chitale (RBI) bt 1-Sreeja Akula (RBI) 10-12, 8-11, 13-11, 12-10, 11-8, 9-11, 11-9. **Semifinals:** Sreeja bt 4-Yashashwini Ghorpade (PSPB) 11-5, 8-11, 11-9, 11-9, 11-9; Diya bt Syndrela Das (Ben) 11-8, 11-8, 11-5, 11-6.

Mixed doubles: Final: Akash Pal & Poymantee Baisya (RSPB) bt Jash Modi & Taneesha Kotecha (Mah) 11-5, 11-6, 11-4.
Semifinals: Akash & Poymantee bt Payas Jain (Del) & Suhana Saini (Har) 11-7, 14-12, 7-11, 11-2; Jash & Taneesh bt Abhishek Yadav (Bol) & Aarti Chaudhary (UP) 11-2, 9-11, 13-11, 11-9.

INBRIEF

Jyothi wins 60m hurdles gold with national record time

Jyothi Yarraji clinched gold in her first race of the season, that too with a national record, winning the 60m hurdles in 8.04 seconds at the Elite Indoor Meeting in Nantes (France). She broke her own earlier national record of 8.12 twice in a few hours on Saturday. She first clocked 8.07 in the heats and then bettered her time in the final of the World Athletics Indoor Tour bronze level meet. Her timing is however still short of the qualifying mark of 7.94 for the World Indoor Championships in Nanjing (China) in March.

WI scents series-levelling win against Pakistan

Kevin Sinclair led a West Indian spin trio to give the tourists a sniff of a series-levelling win in the second Test on Sunday with Pakistan on the ropes at 76 for four after day two in Multan. West Indies scored 244 in its second innings to set the host a daunting 254-run target on a spinning pitch. At stumps, Saud Shakeel was unbeaten on 13 and night-watcher Kashif Ali on one. The West Indies needs only six more wickets to draw the series 1-1. Pakistan need a demanding 178 runs for victory. It won the first Test by 127 runs, also in Multan.

The scores: West Indies 163 & 244 in 66.1 overs (Brathwaite 52, Sajid 4/76, Noman 4/80) vs Pakistan 154 & 76/4 in 24 overs.

Pakistan's Saim all but ruled out of Champions Trophy

Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Chairman Mohsin Naqvi all but ruled out young opener Saim Ayub for the ICC Champions Trophy tournament due to an ankle injury for which he is taking treatment in London. Saim had fractured his ankle on the first day of the second Test against South Africa earlier this month in Capetown. Naqvi told reporters that no risk would be taken with Saim's future and he was personally monitoring his rehabilitation progress.

Lyles launches season with victory in 60m

American Olympic 100m champion Noah Lyles launched his 2025 season with a 60m victory in 6.62 seconds at an indoor university meeting in Gainesville on Saturday. Lyles, who hadn't raced since winning gold in the 100m final and 200m bronze in Paris last year, cruised to victory.

Everton manager Moyes marks 700 PL games

David Moyes celebrated his 700th Premier League game as a manager by overseeing Everton's 1-0 win at Brighton, a landmark he described as "quite an achievement". Moyes is only the third manger to reach the landmark in Premier League history behind former Arsenal boss Arsene Wenger (828) and Manchester United great Sir Alex Ferguson (810).

Mumbai City eases past hapless Mohammedan

Mumbai City FC beat Mohammedan SC 3-0 in an ISL match in Mumbai on Sunday. L. Chhangte (78) and T. Krouma (82) scored for Mumbai after the host went ahead through G. Bora's 73rd-minute own goal.

LIVE TELECAST

U-19 Women's T20 World Cup: Hotstar, 8 a.m. & 12 p.m.
Pakistan vs West Indies: 2nd Test, day 3, FanCode, 10 a.m.
Hockey: HIL, DD Sports, Sony Sports Ten 1, 2, 3 (SD & HD) & LIV, 6 & 8.15 p.m.
ISL: Sports 18-3 & JioCinema, 7.30 p.m.
Serie A: gxr.world, 1.15 a.m. (Tuesday)
LaLiga: gxr.world, 1.30 a.m. (Tuesday)

Tweakers Tanay and Anikethreddy fashion Hyderabad's innings victory

The former scalps six and the latter takes four as they cash in on the irresponsible approach of the Himachal batters

RANJI TROPHY

V.V. Subrahmanyam
HYDERABAD

The left-arm spin duo of Tanay Thyagarajan (six for 118) and G. Anikethreddy (four for 46) bowled in tandem and thrived on the Himachal Pradesh batters' irresponsible approach to fashion an impressive innings and 43-run win in the Ranji Trophy Elite Group B match here on Sunday.

No clue: Tanay Thyagarajan cleans up Vaibhav Arora. V.V. SUBRAHMANYAM

Caution and aggression

Resuming at 21 for no loss after being asked to follow-on, Himachal opener Shubham Arora (66, 72b, 10x4, 1x6) and Innesh Mahajan (25, 22b, 3x4, 1x6) mixed caution with aggression in the first-hour.

This after, Tanay struck the first blow, thanks to a brilliant effort by Varun Goud, who ran from third man to take a catch in the point region, off a leading edge from Prashant Chopra (14). However, once Majahan went for the sweep off a length ball from Anikethreddy to be trapped leg before, the Himachal innings lost direction as Apporav Walia and Akash Vashist threw their wickets away.

The visiting team paid a heavy price as the batters showed a T20 approach when a draw was crucial to stay in contention for a knock-out berth.

From Hyderabad's perspective, it was a remarkable effort by Tanay and Aniketh, who claimed his third five-wicket haul in his sixth match.

Decent line

The bowled a decent line and length on a pitch which helped them, especially Aniketh, who bowled from the far end and struck at regular intervals.

Though No. 10 Vaibhav Arora smashed Tanay for three sixes in his 32 (22b, 2x4, 3x6), it was obvious he was only delaying the inevitable.

He was eventually dismissed by the same bowler to signal celebrations in the home camp.

Hyderabad has 16 points to be fourth in the group while Himachal has 21 from six games and both have a game on hand.

The scores:
Hyderabad — 1st innings: 565.
Himachal Pradesh — 1st innings: 275.
Himachal Pradesh — 2nd innings: Shubham Arora lbw b Tanay 66, Prashant Chopra c Varun b Tanay 14, Innesh Mahajan lbw b Anikethreddy 25, Apporav Walia c Nishanth b Tanay 4, Akash Vashist c Anikethreddy b Tanay 1, Rishi Dhawan c Tanmay b Anikethreddy 15, Ankit Kalsi c Himateja b Anikethreddy 44, Mukul Negi c Varun b Tanay 4, Mayank Dagar c Rahul b Anikethreddy 8, Vaibhav Arora b Tanay 32, Divesh Sharma (not out) 18, Extras (b-8, lb-7, w-1): 16; Total (in 45.4 overs): 247.
Fall of wickets: 1-69, 2-114, 3-122, 4-123, 5-124, 6-168, 7-173, 8-188, 9-201.
Hyderabad bowling: Tanay 18.4.1-118-6, Rakshan 7-1-28-0, Milind 4-0-18-0, Nishanth 4-0-22-0, Anikethreddy 12-1-46-4.

RANJI SCORES — ROUND 6 (DAY FOUR)

Elite: Group A: Shillong: Meghalaya 198 & 294 in 92.2 overs (Sumit Kumar 51, Jaskirat Singh Sachdeva 82, Sunil Roul 4/61) lost to Odisha 548/7 decl.
Points: Odisha 7(17), Meghalaya 0(0).
Agartala: Tripura 212 & 357/5 decl. in 83 overs (Bikramkumar Das 85, Sridam Paul 48, Mandeep Singh 124 n.o., Srinivas Sharath 66) drew with Services 294 & 101/2 in 19.1 overs (Ravi Chauhan 53 n.o.).
Services 3(16), Tripura 1(13).
Nashik: Maharashtra 297 & 464/7 decl. in 119 overs (Siddhesh Veer 41, Ruturaj Gaikwad 89, Saurabh Nawale 126 n.o., Ramakrishna Ghosh 99) bt Baroda 145 & 177 in 36 overs (Jyotsnil Singh 40, Atit Sheth 51, Mukesh Choudhary 5/76).
Maharashtra 6(14), Baroda 0(27).
Group B: Hyderabad: Hyderabad 565 bt Himachal Pradesh 275 & 247 in 45.4 overs (Shubham Arora 66, Ankit Kalsi 44, Tanay Thyagarajan 6/118, Anikethreddy 4/46).
Hyderabad 7(16), HP 0(21).
Puducherry: Andhra 303 & 319/6 decl. in 82.4 overs (K.S. Bharat 41, Karan Shinde 119 n.o.) drew with Pondicherry 260 & 152/0 in 46 overs (V. Ganga Sridhar Raju 75 n.o., Jay Pande 59 n.o.).
Andhra 3(7), Pondicherry 1(3).
Jaipur: Vidarbha 165 & 428/9 decl. in 138.1 overs (Yash Rathod 98, Akshay Wadkar 139, Nachiket Bhute 87, Kukna Ajay Singh 5/104) bt Rajasthan 265 & 107 in 43.3 overs (Harsh Dubey 5/51).
Vidarbha 6(34), Rajasthan 0(16).

Tanay Thyagarajan (6/118, Hyd vs HP). FILE PHOTO: G. MOORTHY

Group C: Patna: Bihar 248 & 236 in 90.4 overs (Ayush Loharuka 49, Sachin Kumar 50, Shivam Sharma 5/58) lost to Uttar Pradesh 603/2 decl.
UP 7(13), Bihar 0(1).
Thiruvananthapuram: Madhya Pradesh 160 & 369/8 decl. drew with Kerala 167 & 268/8 in 104 overs (Mohammed Azharuddeen 68, Aditya Sarwate 80).
Kerala 3(21), MP 1(10).
Group D: Guwahati: Railways 250 & 124/5 decl. in 30 overs (Anchit Yadav 47, Vivek Singh 52) drew with Assam 216 in 65.2 overs (Sibsankar Roy 56, Sumit Ghadigaonkar 107, Himanshu Sangwan 4/59, Kunal Yadav 5/65).
Railways 3(17), Assam 1(6).
Jamshedpur: Chhattisgarh 230 & 250 in 81.1 overs (Aayush Pandey 40, Anuj Tiwary 66, Ashutosh Singh 64, Vikash Singh 4/30) lost to Jharkhand 376 & 105/2 in 31.5 overs (Kumar Suraj 59 n.o.).
Jharkhand 6(14), Chhattisgarh 0(11).
Salem: Tamil Nadu 301 & 305/5 decl. bt Chandigarh 204 & 193 in 50 overs (Manan Vohra 100 n.o., R. Sai Kishore 4/62, S. Ajith Ram 4/89).
TN 6(25), Chandigarh 0(19).
Plate (final): Sovima: Goa 276 & 517/7 decl. in 158 overs (Snehal Kauthankar 202 n.o., Kashyap Bakhale 161, Darshan Misal 67) vs Nagaland 216 & 33/0 in 10 overs.

KARNATAKA ROUND-UP

Noronha smashes second triple century of the season

BENGALURU: Karnataka opener Macneil Noronha smashed his second triple century of the season (304 batting, 329b, 26x4, 15x6) on day two of the C.K. Nayudu (under-23) Trophy match against Uttarakhand at the Alur grounds on Sunday.

Noronha, who had scored 345 versus Tripura back in October 2024 in the campaign's second outing, helped his side reach 581 for five at stumps, in response to the away team's 202.

He was ably assisted by Monish Reddy (121, 118b, 14x4, 2x6), Harshil Dharmani (69, 73b, 7x4, 1x6) and captain Aneeshwar Gautam (44, 62b, 3x4).

The scores:
Uttarakhand 202 vs. Karnataka 64 for two in 14 overs (Macneil H. Noronha 304 batting, Prakar Chaturvedi 29, Monish Reddy 121, Harshil Dharmani 69, Aneeshwar Gautam 44, Satyam Baaliyan 4/77).

Macneil Noronha. FILE PHOTO: K. MURALI KUMAR

Bangalore University in pre-quarterfinals

MYSURU: Krishika Reddy (87) and Soka Kishore (79) helped Bangalore register a 64-run win over VTU (Belagavi) and enter the prequarterfinals of the South zone inter-University women's cricket tournament at the S.D.N.R.W. Stadium recently.

The scores:
Second round: Bangalore 190/6 in 25 overs (Krishika Reddy 87, Soka Kishore 79, Spasha Rai 3/23) bt VTU (Belagavi) 126/5 in 25 overs.
Dr. MGR Education & Research Institute 47 in 15.4 overs (Goshika Bhaskar 5/4, Abhirami 4/11) lost to Jeppiaar (Chennai) 51/1 in 2.5 overs (Goshika Bhaskar 48 n.o).
Adikari 190/4 in 25 overs (M. Baana 72, Devika Kandregula 53) bt University of Kerala 96 in 18.5 overs (Moshini 3/13, Harika 3/14).
Mangalore 58/8 in 25 overs lost to University of Madras 59/2 in 5.2 overs (M. Trisha 29).
First round: JNTU (Kakinada) 278/0 in 25 overs (Mayassar Anjum 126 n.o., Lithika 122 n.o.) bt Sri Dharmasthala Manjunath 43 in 17.3 overs (Boni Pushpa 4/8, Hunsa Hazara 4/7).
Andhra (Visakhapatnam) 211/5 in 25 overs (Harshitha Karthik 76, Y. Hema Roshi 51) bt Pondicherry 127/9 in 25 overs.
Osmania (Hyderabad) 276/6 in 25 overs (Salshi 48, Padma 45) bt Karnataka State Akkamahadevi Women's 74/9 in 25 overs (Kotla Sannidhi 3/14).

Gary Hall joins Inspire Institute as the High Performance Director

Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

Gary Hall, who guided British taekwondo to 10 Olympic, four Paralympic and 37 World Championship medals, has been appointed as the High Performance Director by JSW Sports at the Inspire Institute of Sports (IIS) in Vijayanagar.

Not just taekwondo, Hall has 22 years of experience in developing performance strategies of athletes and leading multi-disciplinary teams.

In his new role, he aims to guide IIS athletes to enhanced performance across all levels.

"I am happy to drive an exciting, positive, creative and supportive performance culture. I firmly believe that IIS athletes can be intensely competitive and deliver medal winning performances that inspire the whole of India," said Hall on Sunday.

Maria rallies to down Jeanjean in the final

Ashwin Achal
BENGALURU

A relentless Tatjana Maria wore down an inconsistent Leolia Jeanjean in the final of the $100,000 KPB Trust Women's Open at the KSLTA courts here on Sunday.

The champion won $15,239 and 100 WTA ranking points, while Jeanjean had to settle for $8,147 and 65 ranking points.

Paying the price

It was Jeanjean who took the first set, relying on deep approach shots followed by crisp volleys.

She, however, abandoned this winning strategy in the next two sets, and paid a huge price for making several unforced errors.

Maria, the 2022 Wimbledon semifinalist, was built to last the distance. Using her tall frame and quick feet, the 37-year-old Maria chased down and retrieved shots that looked like clear winners.

Now forced to contend with extended rallies, Jeanjean's spirit took a beating.

One for the album: Maria celebrates with her family. K. MURALI KUMAR

> It was a really tricky match. I tried to put as many balls back as possible because I knew she was a bit tired. At the end it was a big fight
> MARIA

Maria's powerful serve down the 'T' came to her aid on multiple occasions, as did her trademark low slices.

It was the second title for world No. 90 Maria in India after her triumph in the 2023 W40 Pune tournament.

Heartbreak

It was heartbreak for Jeanjean (world No. 149), who threw her racquet in despair after losing the match.

"It was a really tricky match.

"I tried to put as many balls back as possible because I knew she was a bit tired. At the end it was a big fight," Maria, 37, said.

The result (final):
Tatjana Maria (Ger) bt Leolia Jeanjean (Fra) 6-7(0), 6-3, 6-4.

Star power: The visitor would hope for special things from its talisman Chhetri. X@BENGALURUFC

Host MBSG seeks a win against misfiring BFC

ISL

Amitabha Das Sharma
KOLKATA

Mohun Bagan Super Giant will look to consolidate its lead when it hosts Bengaluru FC in an ISL-11 fixture here on Monday.

Having won each of its last seven home games, Mohun Bagan is sitting on top with 37 points from 17 matches.

With 11 wins, four draws and just two losses to its name, Mohun Bagan will be eager to regain the winning form having played successive draws in its previous two 'away' outings against Jamshedpur FC (1-1) and Chennaiyin FC (0-0).

The visitor, Bengaluru FC, is presently struggling for form after having done exceptionally well at the start of the tournament. It has been winless in its last four outings and has dropped to the third position with 28 points from 17 encounters. This means the Blues are nine points behind the Mariners making the upcoming match an important contest for both the opponents.

Bengaluru outplayed Mohun Bagan SG in the first phase at its home (in the third round on 28 September 2024) and will be looking at the chance to complete their first league double over Mohun Bagan.